

'Grisly decisions' on spending bids

Tax cuts are in danger, Major warns

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

CABINET ministers have been warned by the Chancellor and by Mr Norman Lamont, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, that if they press too hard for their own spending budgets they will destroy the Government's last chance of making tax cuts before the next election.

Spending bids do not have to be sent to the Treasury for at least another month, but as the skirmishing began over next year's public spending round, Mr Lamont publicly underlined a warning given to the Cabinet in private by Mr John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

He said in an interview to the BBC's *On the Record*: "The prospect of tax cuts at the moment does not look very good. These things are always uncertain but we have very little room for manoeuvre."

Mr Lamont confirmed only 10 days ago, during the second reading debate of the Finance Bill, that it remained the Government's objective to bring the standard rate of taxation down to 20p in the pound, and Mrs Thatcher insisted at the Scottish Conservative conference in Aberdeen on Saturday that tax-cutting was still the aim.

It has emerged, however, that Mr Major recently warned his colleagues, during a special presentation to the Cabinet, of "grisly decisions" ahead on the public spending round. Mr Lamont made it

plain yesterday that if he were to give way to backbench demands for large sums to be devoted to reducing poll tax bills, the price would be high in terms of other spending plans.

"It is a competing claim that goes alongside health, education, transport, everything else. If colleagues wanted to argue for a very, very generous settlement for local government, that would mean there wouldn't be money for those other areas. It is directly in competition."

In effect, ministers have been told that cherished plans for improving the quality of life in the run-up to the election, by providing better commuter services, cutting teacher shortages with the introduction of better pay and easing in health service reforms with a cash boost, will mostly go by the board.

Mr Major has told colleagues that he is determined to stick with the fiscal surplus of £7 billion planned for next year and the £3 billion surplus allowed for the year after and he will not contemplate going back to a borrowing requirement. He is also understood to have indicated that the reduction of inflation will be a longer and harder task than once contemplated.

The Chancellor and Mr Lamont have told spending ministers that they will not be compensated for the fact that the Treasury underestimated the inflation figure, now at 9.4 per cent, in setting this year's spending plans.

Mr Lamont said yesterday: "Inflation cannot be accommodated. If you wish to defeat inflation, you have to strive not to accommodate it in spending plans." As a result public-sector wage settlements will, in some cases, have to be below the rate of inflation, an effective pay cut.

The Chief Secretary said that controlling inflation was the heart of the Government's policy. "Everything depends upon it and therefore we have to be as tough as we possibly can about public spending, including wage claims."

The Treasury had been looking for inflation to fall early next year, but it is now expecting a month or two's slippage. Asked yesterday if the Chancellor's Budget forecast of an RPI at 7.5 per cent by the end of the year still stood, Mr Lamont appeared to acknowledge City scepticism: "It would not be right to change the forecast. All sorts of things can happen and we are sticking to the forecast."

He said interest rates would

come down only after the inflation had done so. Mr Lamont said that would remain high for some months, but it would come down a bit before the end of the year, "and next year we will see a considerable drop".

He acknowledged that this year will see one of the toughest public spending rounds. With the economy slowing down, it would be harder to maintain the Government's achievement of progressively reducing spending as a proportion of GDP, and the Exchequer would not benefit from the previous years' sharp falls in unemployment levels.

The stark warnings from the Chancellor and his deputy effectively open the public spending round season. The Treasury is denying any responsibility for stories suggesting that it was seeking an early interim "peace dividend" after recent developments in the Soviet Union and eastern Europe in the shape of a £1 billion cut in the £21 billion defence budget.

Treasury ministers suspect the military of floating the idea for tactical reasons. They accept that any defence cuts will not be dramatic and sudden, but will require careful phasing in over a number of years.

Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Defence, acknowledged yesterday that the Treasury would be seeking cuts from his department, but said nothing had been decided yet. No risks would be taken and defence could not be turned on and off like a tap. He admitted, however, that the order for new battle tanks might not be as large as first intended.

Other ministers are expecting Mr King to be forced to make some contribution to the Chancellor's room for manoeuvre. One said yesterday it would be "unforgivable" if Mr King's budget was not trimmed.

Even allowing for the inevitable manoeuvring at this stage of the game, the pressures building up for this year's spending round are enormous.

Mr Chris Patten, the Secretary of State for the Environment, is seeking £3.4 billion for local government spending, and Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health, is said to be asking for an extra £3 billion to pay for the staff and technology required to introduce health service reforms and to boost ailing hospital building programmes.

Thatcher's ERM hint, page 2

Pressure on Haughey over extradition

By Edward Gorman, Irish Affairs Correspondent

MR CHARLES Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, is coming under increasing pressure to change Ireland's extradition laws.

In a speech seen as part of a campaign by Ireland's opposition parties to force a change in the extradition laws, Mr Des O'Malley, leader of the Progressive Democrats, told his party conference on Saturday that decent people were appalled at the spectacle of convicted IRA members being freed by the Irish Supreme

Court. Pressure on Mr Haughey was increased yesterday by a call by Mr Alan Dukes, the Fine Gael leader, for an all-party summit on extradition aimed at closing any loopholes.

The campaign for change comes after the Supreme Court freed two convicted IRA men wanted in Northern Ireland and allowed a third, also wanted in Ulster, to go free.

Details, page 2

Whaling batters Norway's green reputation

From Michael McCarthy Environment Correspondent Bergen



Mrs Brundtland: Rattled by questioning

THE uncomfortable question of whaling emerged last night to puncture the environmental reputation the Norwegian Government has been hoping to draw from its international conference on sustainable development, or "green growth".

Mrs Gro Harlem Brundtland, the former Norwegian Prime Minister, was clearly rattled when the subject was raised with her by journalists at the 34-nation gathering, of which she is the moving spirit, and at which it has been expected that Britain and the United States will be pilloried by some countries, including Norway, for their alleged blocking of moves to combat the greenhouse effect.

Mrs Brundtland side-stepped ques-

tions as to whether she would support a resumption of commercial whaling and whether her country's hosting such a big environmental conference while continuing to kill whales for "scientific" purposes was not hypocritical. She gave an impassioned defence of Norway's current whaling programme, which has drawn fierce criticism from many other countries.

Last night Britain's delegation head at the conference in Bergen, Mr David Trippier, the Minister of State for the Environment, criticized Norway's whaling programme, saying he agreed with the International Whaling Commission that it was "unsatisfactory".

Norway intends to ask the commission at its July meeting in The Netherlands to take the minke whale off the protected list, a move that implies a resumption of commercial whaling,

which since 1986 has been the subject of an international moratorium. Despite the ban, however, Norway, Iceland and Japan have continued killing some whales, saying the kills are for scientific purposes, to enable them to get a true picture of the size of stocks. The "scientific" programmes have been widely criticized as purely hypocritical.

Yesterday Mrs Brundtland, leader of Norway's Labour opposition, insisted that the Norwegian programme was essential. She said: "We need to know the relationship between different types of important fish stocks for human consumption, seals, and whales, and we are not in Norway going to give up our conviction that we need to know what we are doing. ... I think there are certain stocks such as the minke whale which are much bigger than what has been the assessment previously."



Bowler salute: Heavily decorated members of the Combined Cavalry "Old Comrades" greet each other at the sixty-sixth annual memorial service and parade in Hyde Park, London, yesterday

Lockerbie: US safety chief loses his job

From Martin Fletcher Washington

IN ADVANCE of publication tomorrow of a damning report on the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, the US Federal Aviation Administration's security chief has been quietly removed from his job.

The report by a seven-strong Presidential commission is expected to be highly critical of Pan Am and of the FAA's programme for aviation security, particularly at Frankfurt, both before and after the bombing in December 1988 which cost 270 lives. In what is widely seen as an effort to blunt the report's criticism, Mr Raymond Salazar, director of the FAA's Office of Civil Aviation Security, resigned late last week and has been reassigned to its Centre for Management Development in Florida.

A statement issued by Mr James Bussey, the FAA's Administrator, insisted the reassignment and the report were not connected, although Mr Samuel Skinner, the Transportation Secretary with ultimate responsibility for the FAA, received the commission's findings last week.

The commission, comprising two senators, two congressmen and three independent experts, was created by President Bush last August after intense pressure from relatives of the Lockerbie victims who have consistently demanded Mr Salazar's resignation, claiming serious lapses.

In an April hearing, the commission was told that unaccompanied luggage put aboard planes at Frankfurt airport, where the bomb was planted, had been X-rayed only, not hand-searched.

UK and Iran moving towards direct talks

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

BRITAIN and Iran are moving towards direct discussions of their differences over the hostages held by his militia for 16 Western hostages, three Israeli servicemen and several of his men held by Shia Muslim factions. "A comprehensive package deal is possible," he said. An Israeli spokesman supported his remarks but said there was no sign of any response from the other side.

Tehran has made it clear through indirect contacts that it thinks the time is ripe, while Britain has begun to play down pre-conditions it had set for changing from indirect to direct talks. It is likely that intermediaries will step up contacts with Tehran, leading to a meeting between British and Iranian diplomats in a neutral country.

In another development, General Antonine Lahd, com-

mander of the Israel-backed Southern Lebanon Army, said he was prepared to exchange detainees held by his militia for 16 Western hostages, three Israeli servicemen and several of his men held by Shia Muslim factions. "A comprehensive package deal is possible," he said. An Israeli spokesman supported his remarks but said there was no sign of any response from the other side.

Britain and Iran appear to be almost back to where they were in June 1988, when three MPs, a member of the House of Lords and Mr John Lytle, a senior Lambeth Palace official, visited Tehran. This

paved the way for direct diplomatic contacts, leading to an agreement to restore full diplomatic relations. But the deal collapsed in February 1989, when Ayatollah Khomeini sentenced Mr Rushdie to death.

Mr Robert Hicks, Conservative MP for Cornwall South East, who took part in the Tehran trip, yesterday welcomed the signs that a new attempt to improve links might be imminent.

The moves are expected if a meeting in Dublin on Wednesday between Iranian and

Continued on page 22, col 8

Walker to take top post in City

By Colin Campbell

MR PETER Walker, who recently resigned as Welsh Secretary, will be appointed a non-executive director of the City securities firm Smith New Court this morning. The appointment will be criticized by political opponents.

As a former Secretary for Energy, Mr Walker was responsible for the 1986 privatization of British Gas—a stock exchange flotation handled by the merchant bankers N. M. Rothschild & Sons, who own 30 per cent of Smith New Court.

Mr Michael Richardson, a long-standing associate of Mr Walker and now chairman of Smith New Court, personally handled the British Gas privatization to Rothschild. He will make the announcement this morning of Mr Walker's Smith New Court

appointment to the Stock Exchange.

Mr Walker's connection with a City house—which has handled a number of City issues for the Government—so soon after severing his Cabinet links was attacked last night by Mr Barry Jones, Labour's Shadow Secretary for Wales. "It leaves a bitter taste in the mouth for many people in Wales," he said.

The appointment is the first of what is likely to be a number of non-executive City posts for Mr Walker. He is thought also to be planning to join a building society board.

Mr Walker told *The Times* he had known Mr Richardson and Mr Michael Marks, Smith New Court's chief executive, for a number of years. He thought Smith New Court was "an exciting house".

Angry Iliescu rejects British protest

From Christopher Walker Bucharest

WITH less than a week to go before Romania's first free election in 53 years, President Iliescu, a former senior member of the now defunct Communist Party and the leading candidate for president, has angrily dismissed attempts by Britain to reduce intimidation by his ruling National Salvation Front.

At a press conference as chaotic and ill-tempered as the campaign, Mr Iliescu, the interim President, dismissed claims of organized violence against the main right-wing opposition parties as exaggerated, and rejected moves by Britain, which last Friday called in Romania's Ambassador to voice concern about the conduct of the poll.

"No one has the right to interfere in our business," Mr Iliescu said as claims of harassment by Front supporters continued to flood in from many regions. "It is our business, not Her Majesty's Government's business to supervise how elections will proceed inside Romania."

Mr Iliescu's rejection of British and American criticism came as his Administration failed in a second attempt to negotiate a peaceful end to the three-week-old anti-communist street protest which has blocked the main boulevard in central Bucharest since April 24.

On Saturday night the crowd swelled to more than 20,000 for the first time. Many speakers demanded Mr Iliescu's resignation. Organizers of a petition to ban all former Communist Party activists from standing for office in three consecutive general elections claimed to have six million signatures.

At his press conference, Mr Iliescu said all political demonstrations were banned in the last three days of the campaign. Asked if the Government would move to enforce the law before the May 20 vote, he said: "We shall see."

His two rivals for the presidency, Mr Ion Raicu of the National Peasant Party and Mr Radu Campeanu of the National Liberal Party, staged rallies in Bucharest at the weekend at which anti-communism was the common theme. Neither drew a crowd of more than 6,000, which was seen as evidence of their poor organization and the Front's domination of public opinion, assisted by its control of the single television network.

Gypsy power, page 9

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Heritage body hit by threats to quit

By John Shaw

THE future of the Government's heritage committee that advises on the export of art treasures is in the balance after controversial changes in the law to allow the private sale of Canova's statue, "The Three Graces".

At a meeting with Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, five members of the committee complained that the Government had created "an unacceptable charter for speculators" by permitting private bids to stop export of the statue to the Getty Museum in California.

The meeting was called to discuss the wider financial situation and the effectiveness of regulations, said a member of the Reviewing Committee of the Export of Works of Art yesterday. "But it was inevitable that we would also discuss Mr Nicholas Ridley's decision on the Canova."

The protest is unprecedented and could easily undermine the Government's relations with the heritage lobby and the fine art world. One member of the committee told Mr Luce she was considering resigning, but he advised against it. She had written a letter of resignation, "but I was asked to reconsider the position. I was asked not to send it and I didn't, but, to put it mildly, there is extreme dissatisfaction on the committee."

"Its whole position is being eroded and with these changes it will become worse. The Government's treatment of the Getty Museum has been unpardonable. It went against all the advice tended to it. To put it frivolously, it changed the goal-posts in the middle of the game."

Mr Graham Reynolds, a member of the committee and former keeper of prints and drawings at the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, said: "It was a polite meeting but firm words were spoken and firm views expressed." He said the committee had not met Mr Ridley before the announcement.

The reviewing committee's success rate in preventing nationally important works of art going abroad was considerable at first, Mr Reynolds said. "But in the past few years it has been dropping considerably."

Asked why, he said: "The Government is not putting enough money in to help acquire the works of art which the committee considers are of outstanding national importance."

The purchase grant for museums and galleries is £13 million. It has not been increased for several years. The Government insists that private buyers are the only way to ensure that the greatest works of art can stay in Britain. The heritage lobby fears that national museums would be excluded from buying treasures by speculative business deals.

Under the old system the reviewing committee provided a "safety net". If dissatisfaction with the new rules leads to resignations en-bloc, however, it could be the effective end of an export control mechanism. A further meeting is planned to discuss the situation, probably in July.



Mr Luce: Complaints over heritage policy

Takeover 'will cripple' archaeology rescue role

By Simon Tait, Arts Correspondent

ENGLISH Heritage is to take over a large part of London's archaeological work in a move that, according to the head of the unit most affected, will "cripple rescue archaeology" in the capital.

The body, statutory adviser on archaeology to the Department of the Environment, is to assume the role of a county archaeological officer, performed mostly by the Museum of London since the demise of the Greater London Council in 1986.

Planning authorities in London have received a document outlining how English Heritage intends to proceed on archaeology in London, taking over the role of strategic assessment and planning advice from the museum.

The unit most affected is the museum's Department of Greater London Archaeology

(DGLA), which was responsible for such finds as the Rose and Globe theatres, the Roman dock complex at Guy's Hospital, the palace of Edward II and house of Sir John Fastolf near Hay's Wharf and Saxon Westminster.

The museum has also been told of English Heritage's intention to remove a £380,000 establishment grant — which largely maintains essential DGLA staff and support costs — to be replaced by project fees. The document says the bulk of field archaeological work in London will continue to be undertaken by the museum but the museum believes there will no longer be an effective unit.

It is a year since the museum ended excavations on the site of the Rose playhouse and actors mounted a vigil to prevent contractors driving piles through the theatre's remains. An agreement with the developers Imry Merchant to preserve the remains was made after negotiations involving English Heritage and development of the site proceeded. However a rift resulted in English Heritage taking over responsibility for the site.

English Heritage believes expensive and time-consuming investigation is unnecessary because remains, once their presence is established, may not be disturbed by developments which can be designed to preserve them.

The museum agrees that as many sites as possible should be preserved, but that in reality redevelopment often means archaeology is destroyed or badly disturbed; much data must be collated in order to understand the evolution of London's land and townscape.

"Rescue archaeology" is the detailed recording of archaeological material due to be destroyed by developments; in recent years it has increasingly become accepted that developers fund archaeological investigations on their sites.

Last autumn English Heritage said it was to reassess the strategy for London's archaeology and a process of consultation began. "London presently lacks any strategic archaeological assessment which synthesizes current knowledge of the archaeological resource of the London area and defines priorities for the future," the document, dated April 1990, says.

Mr Max Hebditch, director of the Museum of London, said yesterday: "I am surprised that these views should have been circulated among planning authorities given that joint discussions have not been completed."

Mr Harvey Sheldon, head of the DGLA, added: "There should be consultation with those outside the museum concerned with London's archaeology as well, and the profession is anxious to know what this decision will mean to other parts of the country where there are integrated units such as ours."

"We do work to stated priorities, but this decision essentially takes away the planning function, which is vital to running an integrated archaeological service in London. It removes the motor from our engine; it will cripple rescue archaeology in London."

English Heritage has commissioned the museum to compile a strategic assessment document in the course of the next year and is to computerize the Greater London Sites and Monuments Record due to be completed by museum staff in 1991. The record will be an integral part of the planning advice service intended to be in operation by April 1991, the document says.

Georgian theatre's worldwide appeal

FIFTY-SEVEN towns named Richmond are to be asked to help secure the future of a unique 18th-century theatre. The tiny, 201-seat Georgian Theatre Royal in Richmond, North Yorkshire, is enjoying its most successful season yet, with average attendances of 96 per cent, but is facing a serious financial crisis.

The theatre will receive grants of £3,000 this year. It needs another £20,000 a year to help pay for its packed programme, however, because even full houses cover half the cost of an average show. "We've never had enough funding," Mr Les Jobson, the manager, said. "We've always had to find sponsors and raise funds in donations and covenants."

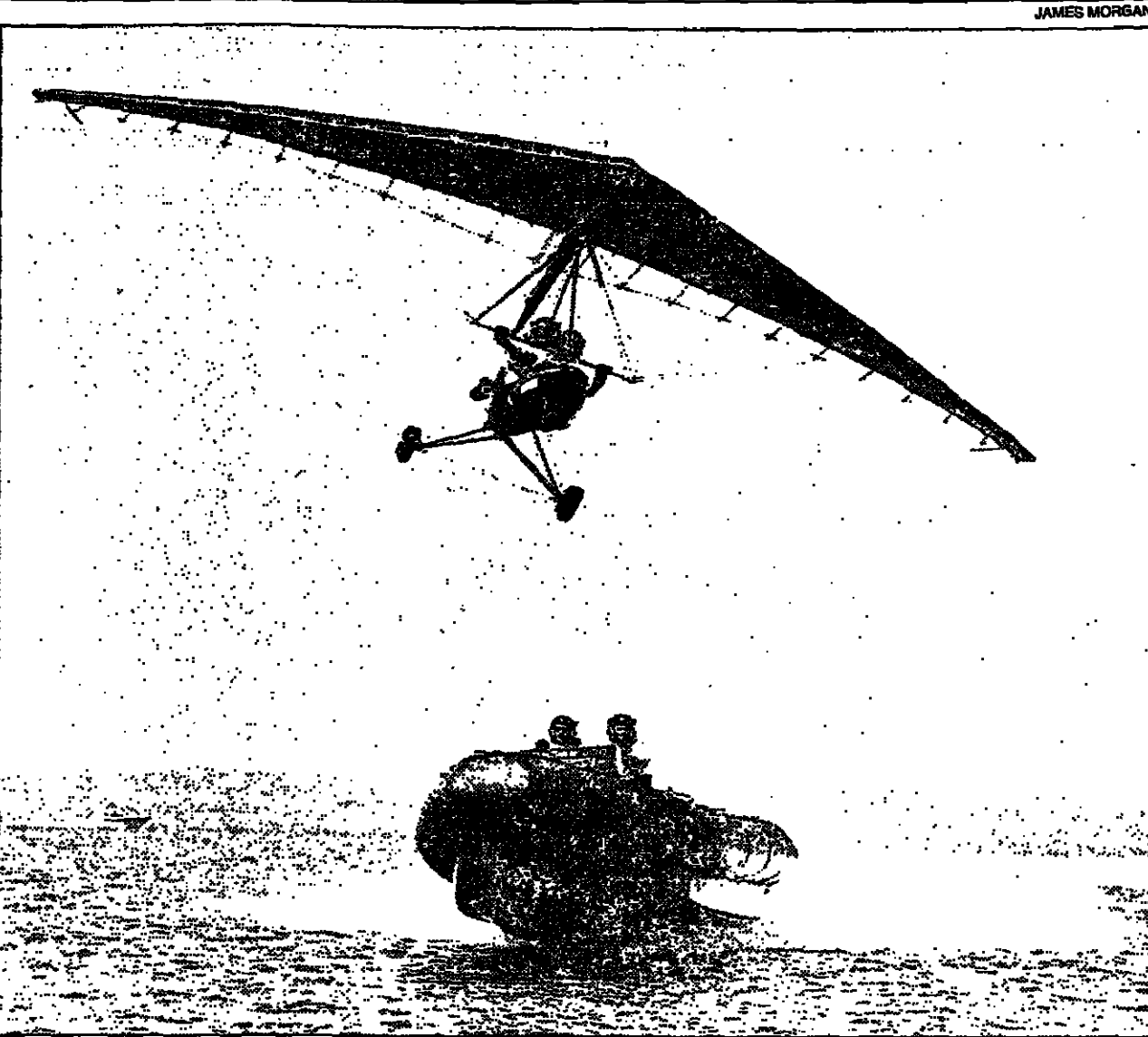
"The fundamental problem now is that because we are such a small theatre we can't make the ticket prices commensurate with the rising costs, and so we either make a loss or only break even on 50 out of 60 shows. We have two alternatives — either to raise the extra money or cut the programme. We are trying to raise the money to see the theatre into the 21st-century."

The theatre is a charitable trust run by Mr Jobson and Mrs Monica Hill, with the Duchess of Kent as patron and Dame Judi Dench as honorary president. It regularly draws leading performers and has 130 voluntary workers who help with the box office and stage management.

"They even buy their own tickets," Mr Jobson said. "We do not do complimentary seats and have extremely low overheads. Hardly any of our money goes on administration costs."

He is optimistic about the Theatre Trust's plan to raise £250,000, which would be invested to produce £20,000 a year. "I've got details of 57 Richmonds around the world, mostly in the United States, but also in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa," he said. "We are not going to beg, but I am sure some of them will want to help. We are an historic theatre of worldwide importance and visitors — especially theatrical historians — come from all over the world to see us."

The theatre was built in 1788 by Samuel Butler, an actor-manager who built four other theatres in Yorkshire. It closed in 1842 and for 120 years was used as a store and auction room. Remarkably, its interior was not destroyed, and it was restored, then reopened in 1963.



Crews of a microlight and an inflatable dinghy practising off Caernarfon for their 1991 trip from New York to Moscow in aid of the Children's Society. They aim to take 15 days using a special refuelling method

College course exported to Athens

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

THE first agreement to export British vocational education to the rest of Europe will be signed in Athens tomorrow. Coventry Technical College has won a contract to provide two-year Higher National Diploma courses in business studies for up to 2,000 Greek students a year from September.

The contract, contradicting the conventional wisdom that Britain's

educational system is inferior to those of other European countries, was won despite competition from elsewhere in Europe and will involve lecturers from Coventry teaching Greek students in English at a new centre in Athens.

On completion of the two-year HND course, validated by the British Business and Technician Education Council, the Greeks will be eligible to enter a one-year degree course at a British polytechnic. The Anglo-Greek project has been devel-

oped by the college in collaboration with Wolverhampton Polytechnic, which is expected to offer degree course places. More than 100 students will be enrolled in Athens this September.

Mr John Temple, the Coventry college's principal, said: "This is just the start of what we hope to achieve in Europe."

Education, pages 18 and 19
Independent Schools, page 32

AGENCY

The week ahead

Today
The Woolf Inquiry into the unrest opens, and the United Nations' state of world population report is published. Mr Douglas Hogg, Foreign Secretary, opens an East-West conference organized by the British Group of Young Politicians.

Tomorrow
The funeral of Cardinal Tomás O Fiaich takes place in Armagh. A national voluntary proof-of-age card scheme for teenage drinkers is launched by the Portman Group.

Wednesday
The Princess of Wales attends a National Aids Trust conference and the Metropolitan Police unveils details of a Land-Rover expedition to Russia. The World Wildlife Fund launches an elephant conservation scheme and Lord Tonypandy, former Speaker, receives the Guild of Professional Toastmasters' after-dinner speaker award.

Thursday
Voters go to the polls in the Upper Bann by-election in Northern Ireland and the Prince of Wales pleads for the rain forests at a Friends of the Earth conference. Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Transport, opens the centenary exhibition of the London Transport Museum.

Friday
Mr Neil Kinnock addresses the Wales Labour Party conference in Swansea, the Princess Royal opens the National Garden Festival at Gateshead, and Scottish baronies and English manor lordships go under the auctioneer's hammer at Glazier's Hall, London.

Saturday
President de Klerk of South Africa meets Mrs Thatcher and EC foreign ministers meet in Ireland. It is day two of the National Conference of Local Councillors in Great Yarmouth.

Sunday
The 63rd Nupe annual conference begins at Blackpool.

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Chips come in from the cold

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

THE British, internationally reputed to have chips with everything, have long been ridiculed by nutritionists throughout the world over their fondness for them.

Now at last the chip has found a supporter and in no less a nation than Sweden, where healthy living has long been the real national religion.

Miss Ingrid Lamberg, whose profession is "food technician" and who has conducted at the University of Lund many years of exhaustive research into the fried potato, states quite categorically that chips do not deserve their bad reputation.

"It is far better to eat newly prepared frozen chips than boiled potatoes," she says in a doctoral thesis. "Chips con-

tain nearly all the nourishment one needs."

In a move likely to win her many young friends, she recommends chips as a school dinner rather than the more traditional Swedish dishes that usually involve boiled potatoes.

Miss Lamberg will dispute energetically her controversial theories on the chip later this week when she defends her thesis against protagonists of salad and fibre.

She supports her claim with a detailed breakdown on the ability of the deep frozen chip to retain minerals and other nourishing elements.

It dries in the process of refrigeration and is thus better than the freshly made variety, Miss Lamberg says, because it

contains less fat when defrosted and cooked. "The more a potato dries out the less fat it absorbs."

However should the news from Sweden for chip lovers appear too encouraging, Miss Lamberg does give two warnings.

"Industrially produced frozen chips are not bad food value at all," she says. "But they must be defrosted and cooked in the oven, never fried all over again," and she has little to say in favour of crisps, which curiously are called *chips* in Swedish, while chips have their French name, *pommes frites*. "Their fat content is much higher than chips," she says, giving at least some potato lovers food for thought.

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Forces urged to cut firing exercises in national parks

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

THE Ministry of Defence should take the opportunity arising from the reduced military threat to cut back, if not stop, live firing exercises in national parks, according to a report published today. The researchers also urged the ministry to draw up a strategic plan for the land on which training is carried out and to subject it to independent public scrutiny.

The report by the UK Centre for Economic and Environmental Development, an independent research organization set up in 1984, says a rethink of ministry policy is necessary for a number of reasons. Those include the changing defence situation and the "unprecedented level of concern for environmental quality".

One of the fundamental questions, the report says, was whether all the national park land held for live firing is needed "in a strict operational sense". "Some of the evidence reviewed in this report, particularly the analysis of intensity of use of the Dartmoor ranges, suggests that the MoD has overestimated the need for living firing, but it is

reluctant to relinquish land which it currently holds."

The report, which was commissioned by several environmental organizations, including the Council for National Parks and the Council for the Protection of Rural England, was written by Dr Susan Owens, a lecturer in geography at Cambridge University. She focused on land used at Dartmoor, Devon, the Pembrokeshire coast and Northumberland.

While accepting that "military occupation" of large areas of national parks had helped to preserve wildlife, the report says that noise remains a significant problem. Complaints about firing exercises at the Castlemartin range in Pembrokeshire, had recently increased sharply, largely because of the introduction of a new tank gun by the German army. "Many people find the noise of firing particularly disturbing when they are seeking the quietude of remote areas," the report says.

The ministry has argued in recent years that training needs are increasing, partly because fewer troops are based overseas. The size of the Terri-

torial Army is also rising, creating a need for more training.

The report says the West German defence ministry has announced drastic reductions in large-scale field training exercises from 1990, mainly due to "political pressure arising from a perceived reduction in the Soviet threat and the greening of West German politics". It adds: "Similar pressures in the UK cannot be ruled out, especially in areas like Dartmoor where there is a long history of environmental opposition to military training."

Dr Owens says although the cessation of live firing was unlikely to be possible in the short to medium term, a "phased withdrawal" from the national parks could occur. The report suggests that where live firing remains, an environmental charge could be levied. Environmental considerations in general needed to be integrated into the Government's defence policy, the report said.

Military Live Firing in National Parks (UK Centre for Economic and Environmental Development, £10)

Competitive importance of being earnest



Mr Harold Andrews and Miss Lara Grylls, right, having an intense conversation at the Glaziers' Hall, London yesterday, under the careful scrutiny of a judge, Mrs Irene Gawn. Miss Grylls and Mr Andrews were two of the 26 people who were

attempting to talk their way to the Conversationalist of the Year title. Contestants, who include Mrs Norma Coburn, a music teacher, and her son Peter, a history teacher, of Hertford, must converse "reasonably intelligently" to each other in pairs.

The conversations last for 25 minutes.

The contest will raise funds for the Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus. The first prize is a holiday in Portugal for two. The contest is now in its tenth year and is

sponsored by *Whitaker's Almanack*. The owner of Britain's brightest smile was declared yesterday to be Miss Victoria Young, aged 20, a sales agent of Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear. Miss Young won the competition at the start of "National Smile Week".

General sees role for paras fifty years on

By Michael Evans

FIFTY years ago next month Winston Churchill issued a memo to the War Office which called for the formation of "a corps of at least 5,000 parachute troops". From that moment, June 22, Britain's airborne forces were born and on Thursday the Queen will watch a parachute assault by 600 soldiers on Salisbury Plain as one of the high points in the 50th anniversary celebrations.

The actions of the "Red Devils" Parachute Regiment, whose motto is "Ready for Anything", have become part of military legend, including their involvement in the Falklands campaign which led to the award of two posthumous Victoria Crosses, to Colonel "H" Jones, commanding officer of 2 Para, and Sergeant Ian McKay, of 3 Para.

Today the future role of the Parachute Regiment is being examined, along with all other sections of the three armed services, in the Government's options for change review. General Sir Geoffrey Howlett, former Commander-in-Chief of Allied Forces Northern Europe until his retirement last year but still Colonel Commandant of the Parachute Regiment, is convinced that they will have a strong role in the future.

He said yesterday: "What we will need in the future are intervention forces that are lightly equipped, not static forces." He did not envisage an expanded parachute force, although there would need to be more money spent on improved equipment. To enhance the Parachute Regiment's ability to drop into

trouble spots, the Hercules transport aircraft should be equipped with advanced navigational aids to allow them to fly in close formation.

Looking ahead to a possible restructuring of Britain's most flexible military units, the paratroops and the Royal Marines, General Howlett said: "We are great rivals but we have enormous respect for each other and we both need aerial intervention. I don't think it is inconceivable that we may be put in some formation together."

General Howlett also supported the idea, already under discussion by those taking part in the MoD's options for change review, of the formation of multi-national forces. He even suggested that it would be possible under certain circumstances for Nato and Warsaw Pact units to join together in military interventionist operations in areas such as the Middle East.

While confident that the Parachute Regiment had an assured future, General Howlett said it would be wrong to react too quickly to the political changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. "We must take it steady," he said, adding: "If Gorbachev succeeds and the Soviet Union genuinely adopts a defensive posture, then we will have to be very careful how we spend our money on defence."

The Golden Jubilee celebrations, called Para 90, which include charity events to raise £4 million, will be marked by a special airborne forces service at St Paul's Cathedral on June 22. The parachute drop by 600 soldiers from 15 Hercules aircraft in front of the Queen on Thursday will involve soldiers from 5 Airborne Brigade.

Yesterday General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, one of the founder members of the Parachute Regiment and now its official historian, said: "When Churchill sent his famous memo we did not have any parachutes. We had to start from scratch. We jumped without a reserve parachute from 500ft and were pleased to do it because we wanted to be in the air for as short a time as possible."



General Howlett: Supports idea of multi-national forces

Protests force delay in plans at market town

By John Young

PROTESTS by residents have forced a local authority to defer until autumn discussions on plans for a shopping centre and multi-storey car park in Ludlow, Shropshire, described as the most perfectly preserved medieval market town in Britain.

The dispute has attracted wide attention, as Ludlow, with a population of 7,500, has more than 700 buildings listed as of historic or architectural interest. Many observers are astonished that after planning mistakes which destroyed the traditional appearance and character of many town centres, the council could contemplate such a project.

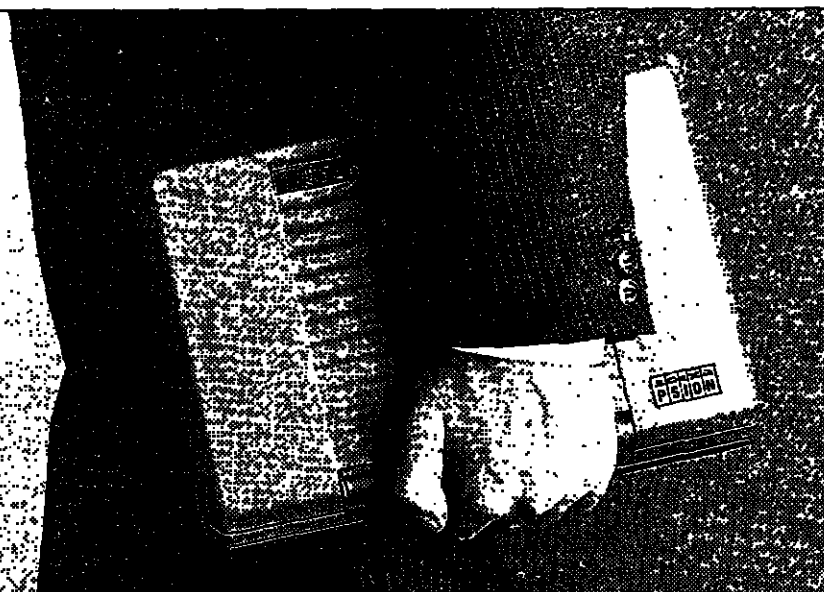
One of its most outspoken opponents is Mr Tom Caulcott, a former senior civil servant, private secretary to

George Brown, secretary of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities and chief executive of Birmingham city council from 1982 to 1988. The shopping centre itself was daft enough, he said, but the idea of a multi-storey car park "beggars the imagination".

However Mr James Caird, the council's chief planning officer, maintained that parking space was needed and the shops would be a counter attraction to bigger centres. The proposals could also be seen as a means of preventing something worse, he said.

It is not an argument that impresses objectors, who have also been involved in an inquiry into plans for a sports centre, which English Heritage denounced as "reminiscent of a railway goods building".

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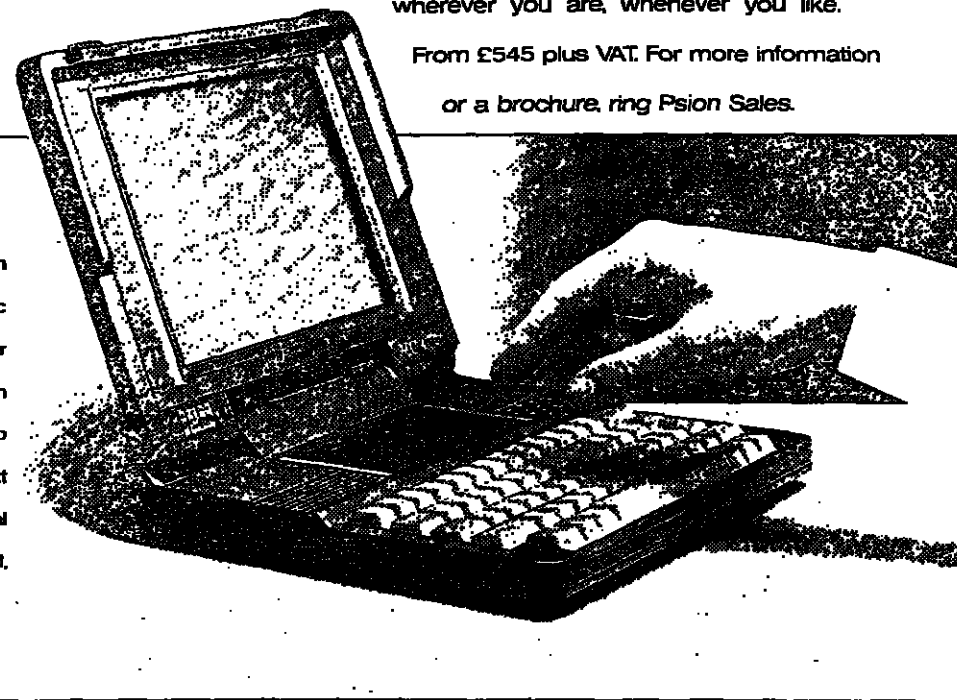
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The image is a high-contrast, black and white photograph. It appears to be a close-up of a person's face, but the lighting is extremely dramatic, with most of the face in deep shadow. Only the bridge of the nose, the forehead, and parts of the cheek are highlighted. The background is dark and indistinct, suggesting an indoor setting with some structural elements. The overall effect is one of mystery and intensity.

[illegible]

**Rosie the rhino
get a Czech mat**

[illegible]

Poll tax test looms for the courts and councils

By Tom Giles

COUNCILS and courts in England and Wales are bracing themselves for the first important test in the collection of poll taxes.

By next month, many local authorities will have taken first steps towards the collection of late payments by issuing reminders. Although the timing is at the discretion of the authority, since issued they impose a series of statutory obligations upon councils to recover the debt. Unlike their Scottish counterparts, non-payers in England and Wales face the prospect of prison.

With bills to some areas still being posted, the Home Office says it is impossible to estimate the number of default cases likely to arise. It has, however, urged clerks of magistrates' courts to contact councils to discuss arrangements for dealing with non-payers. Mr John Hosking, chairman of the Magistrates' Association, said he was confident the courts could cope

with the "very substantial extra work load" forecast.

Many authorities are already claiming that the proportion of unpaid bills is likely to cause costs substantially. Council officials have also said that the lack of legal obligation on the issuing of reminders could cause long delays in collecting debts.

Mr Ron Lord, a financial officer for the Labour-controlled Wakefield Metropolitan Council in West Yorkshire, agreed that councils could, in theory, delay the process. "I don't think that any authorities have yet sent out reminders. I would be surprised if anybody sends them out before June."

The reminder is the first step in the recovery of debt, so, theoretically, if you sent no reminders at all that process won't start. If guidance on their timing wasn't vague, just about every authority in the country would be in trouble because their computers have not yet been properly programmed," he said.

Under the Local Government Finance Act 1988, councils have a "general duty" to ensure poll-tax bills are paid. Once a reminder is sent, people have seven days to settle before their right to pay by instalments is lost. After another seven days they are liable for a year's charges. The authority may then apply for a court summons. There is no time limit for this application.

Mr Lord said that the Department of Environment said councils that delayed unnecessarily in collecting arrears would be reported by the District Auditor.

Once a court is satisfied the amount has not been paid, an all-powers liability order will be made. That allows the council access to financial information on the defaulter and to the use of several methods to collect the tax. They include a sale of a person's goods, deduction of tax from earnings, attachment of money orders and garnishment of bank accounts.

According to the Home Office, courts can send people to prison if there is no alternative. An inquiry is held into whether failure to pay was due to wilful refusal or culpable neglect. If the court finds this to be the case, the debtor may be sent to prison for up to three months.

Under the rating system, there were few imprisonments for failure to pay. Home Office statistics show that, on a given day in 1988, there were 23 people in jail for the offence. Given the political motivations of some non-payers of the poll tax, however, it is likely the number will rise.

In areas such as Liverpool, high levels of default are predicted. The city's anti-poll tax federation forecasts that 100,000 people will not pay.

In Scotland, councils have issued thousands of liability orders for arrears. For example, Strathclyde Regional Council issued orders to 288,854 people (16.5 per cent of payers) at the end of March.



Mr Hosking: Confident the courts can cope

Rosie the rhino to get a Czech mate

By Ruth Gledhill

A ZOO in Czechoslovakia is to send a black rhinoceros, an endangered species, to be a mate for a hand-reared female at London Zoo.

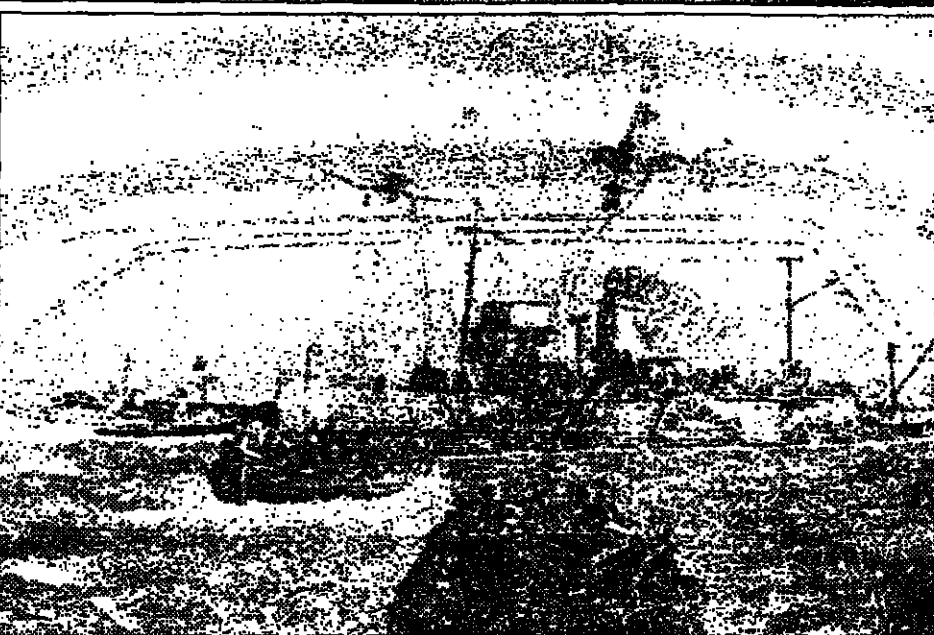
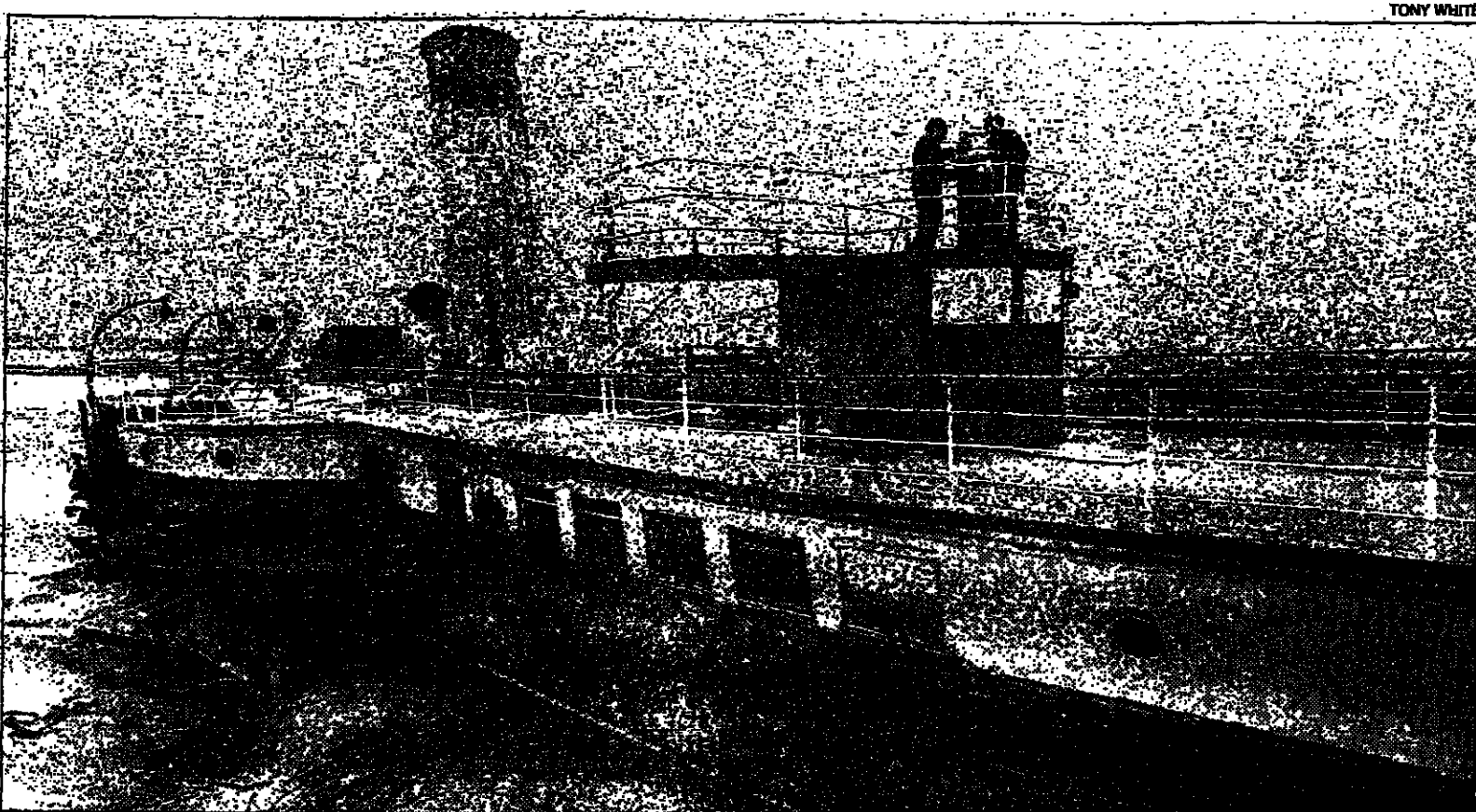
Rosie, born in November 1988, had to be reared by her keeper after she was born underweight and was rejected by Stumpy, her 27-year-old mother. Black rhinos are known to be difficult to hand rear. London Zoo said few survived and none are known to have bred.

Dvur Kralove Zoo is sending a male aged 18 months in June or September in exchange for an Indian rhinoceros from Whipsnade wild animal park in Bedfordshire. The Czech zoo is also sending a large shipment of hoofed stock including bongo and kudu (antelopes) to London, Whipsnade and Marwell zoo near Winchester. Rosie will not be of breed-

ing age for about two years but the zoo is keen that she should get to know a prospective mate while she is still young. A zoo spokesman said: "We hope that when it comes to the fatal moment she will realize she is a rhino. It will help to have a young male to grow up with."

Dr Rob Brett, a rhino expert with the Kenya Wildlife Service, said about 3,800 black rhinos worldwide survived. "We do not know of a single black rhino which has been hand-reared from the earliest age and which has then bred, although a number have been hand-reared to breeding age. We will be watching this with interest."

London Zoo has also helped to negotiate a shipment of three northern white rhino, of which about 40 survive in the wild, from Dvur to San Diego, California.



The Medway Queen, a paddle steamer and one of the larger vessels of the Dunkirk evacuation 50 years ago, undergoing restoration work on the Medway in Kent, and, left, a painting of the vessel under attack as troops embarked at Dunkirk. When a flotilla of 60 "little ships", the survivors of Dunkirk, sail for France this month to mark the anniversary of the evacuation, however, they will be without the ship, one of the "heroines" of the operation (John Young writes).

Thanks to the efforts of a dedicated band of enthusiasts, who have formed a preservation society, the last traditional British paddle steamer lingers on at a berth in the river whose name she bears. Missy, however, is urgently needed to restore the 316-ton vessel and make her seaworthy. "It is a national scandal that such a historic little ship can not be properly preserved," Mr Marshall Vine, the society's chairman, says.

In the nine days of the evacuation, which began on Sunday May 26, 1940, and was known as "Operation Dynamo", she is reckoned to have brought some 6,000 troops back to Britain as seven return crossings. On her last crossing she was so badly damaged that she was posted as lost but eventually limped into harbour to an emotional welcome. For the rest of the war she served as an auxiliary minesweeper.

After a period as an excursion vessel she was used for a time as a maritime club-house on the Isle of Wight. She was twice saved from the breaker's yard and from a grave on a mudbank before being rescued and taken to her present home.

Attempt to identify basis of disorder

By Thomson Practice Science Correspondent

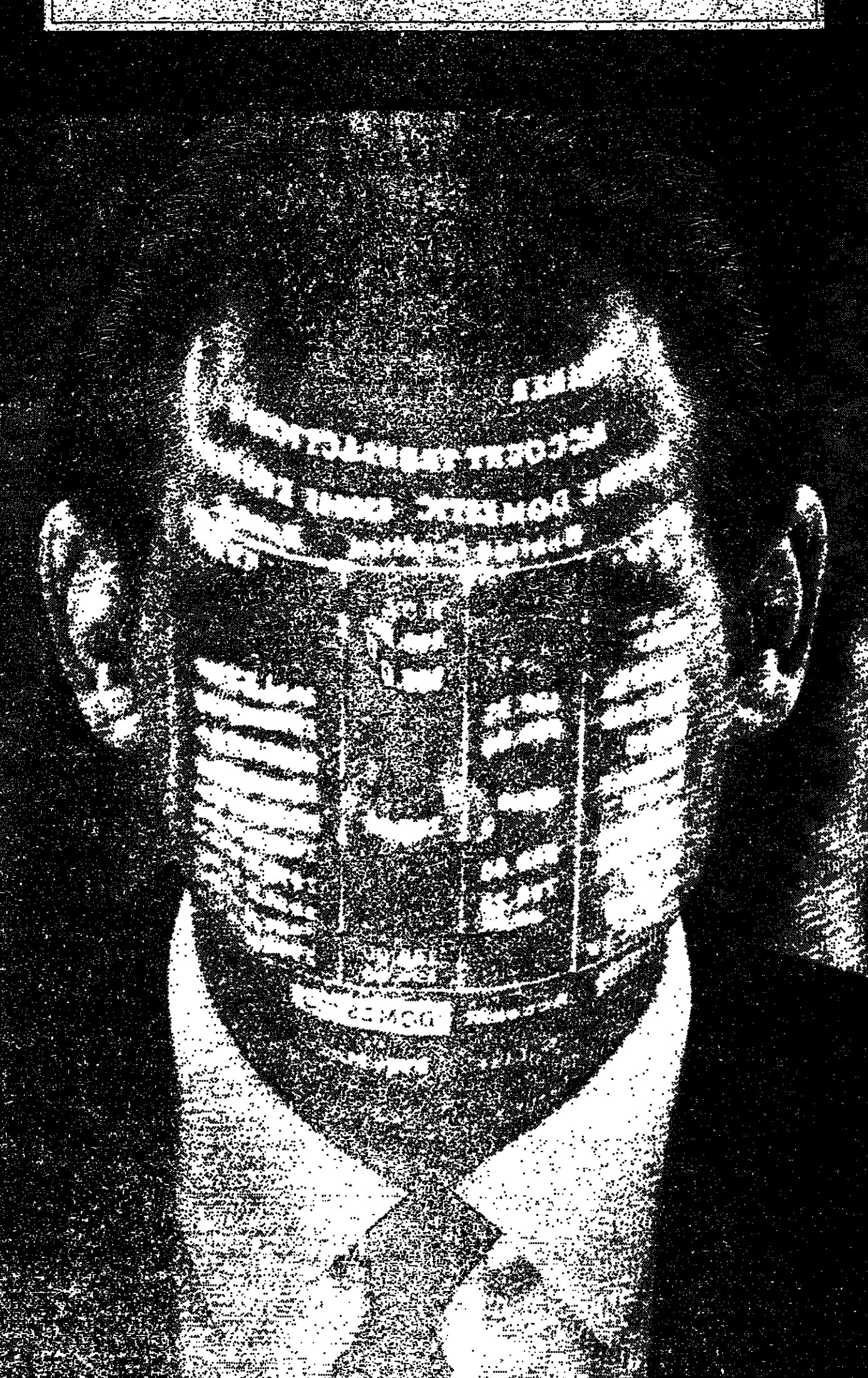
An international effort to identify the genes which underlie schizophrenia has been launched by researchers in London. Specialists are expected to help from families in which two or more relatives are sufferers, as part of a study involving experts in Europe, the US and Far East.

The illness affects one in 100 people. The closer an individual's genetic relationship to a person with schizophrenia, the greater is the risk of that individual being affected. Studies have shown that the potential to develop the condition is genetically transmitted, and that several genes are likely to be involved. Other factors are complications in pregnancy and birth, but it is not yet possible to identify the risk members of individual families.

Professor Robin Murray, head of the genetics section of the Institute of Psychiatry in Camberwell, south-east London, said: "This is one of the most desperate mental illnesses known. It has a destructive effect on the sufferers, their families and friends. It has long been believed that it runs in families, but precisely how it is transmitted is yet to be unravelled."

Identification of the gene or genes involved in the disorder would lead to more effective treatments and better counselling for those who may be at risk and could result in a cure, he said. Interested families should contact the genetics section of the institute, at De Crespigny Park, Denmark Hill, Camberwell, London SE5 8AF.

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WHERE PEOPLE MATTER

Princess to hear how project is cutting offences by young

By Peter Davenport

THE Princess Royal, president of the Save the Children Fund, will today hear how a pioneering scheme involving it in Co Durham is helping to achieve dramatic reductions in the numbers of young offenders sent into custody.

Together with Mr John Patten, Minister of State at the Home Office, she is to attend and address a seminar in Durham on a partnership programme involving the charity, police, social services, the probation service and voluntary groups, providing community-based alternatives to prison and residential care.

The scheme has secured an 85 per cent reduction in the use of residential care and custody since 1986, much greater than the national figure, and led to a 23 per cent cut in the amount of juvenile crime over the same period and to a

dramatic decrease in the re-offending rate. Although the reoffending rate among young people given custodial sentences was as much as 97 per cent, it is only 56 per cent in one half of the project area and 49 per cent in the other.

Mr John Errington, the charity's divisional director for the North, said: "We believe that Durham demonstrates that, on a large scale, over a long period, you can do away with custody for juveniles."

He added: "What is being achieved in the county is far more than offering alternatives to custody. Rather, it is a total strategy, covering crime prevention, diversion from the courts and replacements for care and custody for juveniles and, now, for young adults, too. We are developing the kind of justice system for young people that is urgently needed throughout the UK."

Following the success of the project in

Durham, the Home Office has provided funding for it to be extended to young adult offenders in the 17 to 20 age range.

The programme, in the north of Co Durham, is called "Challenge" and run by a local voluntary agency, and in the south, is called "Springboard" and run by social services. Both versions are successors of projects started in 1984, when the Government provided two years' financial backing for 110 schemes throughout the country aimed at improving juvenile justice.

Between 250 and 300 young offenders have been referred to the projects in the past five years. Save the Children has been involved through its consultancy project, Contract, which monitors, advises and evaluates the schemes.

Mr Errington said that a key element of the success of the Durham project was that it was run by a central strategy group

made up of the chief executive of the county council, the chief constable and the heads of social services and the probation service.

The project also involved the willingness of the courts to send young offenders to it, rather than into custody, and of the police to use cautions in appropriate cases rather than put teenagers straight into the court system.

The young offenders are put into intensive, short-term programmes of either four or eight months' duration, during which they have to confront and change the attitudes that led them to offend. Other work is being done to identify and tackle problems, such as unemployment and homelessness, that lead juveniles into crime.

Save the Children issued case studies of two young offenders helped. ● Dave, aged 16, had a string of offences

to his name, including burglary and stealing a vehicle, when referred to the Challenge project. He had already received two detention orders and his destructive behaviour at home was causing a poor relationship with his mother and brothers.

During the eight-month programme, he was helped to tackle the reasons for his re-offending, employment problems and family relationships. Although initially wary, he began to trust the staff and gradually improved the relationship with his mother and reassessed his friendships with well-known offenders.

He joined a project learning to ride and maintain motorcycles and began working with patients at a local hospital, helping to develop courses for mentally handicapped adults. His self-esteem improved after he had seen others worse off than himself, and, towards the end of

the programme, he found a steady job as a labourer. Since then, he has decided to train for a career in sports and leisure management and he has not re-offended.

● Bob, also 16, was remanded to the care of the local authority pending court proceedings, and felt that he had nothing to lose by absconding and re-offending because if he were sent to secure accommodation, that would count towards any custodial sentence received.

Challenge provided a "bail support" letting him stay with his family, although he was visited by staff. During three months' bail, he started a YTS course, and, when he finally appeared in court, he was given an alternative to care and custody disposal.

The seminar, "Keeping Young People out of Prison", will be attended by judges, magistrates, court clerks and officers of the departments involved.

Growing under class 'threat to society'

By Nicholas Wood
Political Correspondent

BRITAIN has a small but growing under class of poor people cut off from the values of the rest of society and prone to violent, anti-social behaviour, according to a report published today by the Institute of Economic Affairs, a right-wing think tank.

Dr Charles Murray, the author, gives a warning that rising illegitimacy, crime and labour force drop-out rates among the young mean that Britain is likely to repeat the American experience that has blighted whole neighbourhoods in towns and cities.

Dr Murray, the Bradley Fellow at the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research in New York, says: "Britain does have an under class, still largely out of sight and still smaller than the one in the United States. But it is growing rapidly. Within the next decade it will probably become as large, proportionately, as the United States' under class. It could easily become larger."

Illegitimacy rates in Britain have risen in the past few years - from 14.1 per cent in 1982 to 25.6 per cent in 1988. The increase has been concentrated among the lowest social class, he says.

The figures are alarming because boys, in particular, need the role model of a father to grow into responsible adults. "Fifteen years ago, there was hardly a poor neighbourhood in urban Britain where children did not still see plentiful examples of good fathers around them."

"Today, the balance has already shifted in many poor neighbourhoods. In a few years the situation will be much worse, for this is a problem that nurtures itself," he says.

"In communities without fathers the kids tend to run wild. Run wild can mean such simple things as young children having no set bedtime. It can mean them being left alone in the house at night while mummy goes out. It can mean an 18-month-old toddler allowed to play in the street. It can mean children who are inordinately physical and aggressive in their relationships with other children," he says.

He also points to the 43 per cent rise in violent crime between 1982-88 as evidence of the emergence of an under class. Dr Murray argues that higher benefits and more relaxed social attitudes have made illegitimacy more economically and socially feasible. He also says that crime has become "safer" as detection rates have fallen and penalties have been reduced.

In the same report from the IEA, Mr Frank Field, the Labour chairman of the all party Commons social services committee, calls for new policies to deter young single women from having babies and to make absentee fathers responsible for the maintenance of their children.

The *Emerging British Under Class*, by Charles Murray and others (Institute of Economic Affairs, 2 Lord North Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3LB; price £5.95, £2pp)

Police take tougher line on begging as complaints rise

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

PROSECUTIONS for begging in central London have at least tripled over the past year and may have increased by as much as five times, probation officers say.

Their estimates, which Whitehall officials privately accept as correct, indicate a decisive toughening of the police's approach towards the growing incidence of begging in the capital. Complaints to the police about vagrants have risen sharply over the past 18 months.

Some beggars are alleged to have threatened commuters and tourists; more than 90 per cent of those prosecuted are convicted and the typical punishment is a small fine or one day's imprisonment.

The National Association of Probation Officers says 1,396

people were convicted of begging last year in just four of the 14 inner London magistrates' courts, compared with 500 prosecutions for the whole of London in 1988. Of those convicted last year in Clerkenwell, Marlborough, Bow Street and Horseferry Road magistrates' courts, 139 (12 per cent) received fines, 585 (51 per cent) a fine or one day's imprisonment, 346 (30 per cent) a conditional discharge and 22 (2 per cent) an absolute discharge.

Most beggars - all convicted under the 1824 Vagrancy Act - were male; about 190 were aged under 21, 203 aged between 22 and 30, and 508 aged over 30.

Mr Harry Fletcher, the association's assistant general secretary, said: "It ought not

to be an offence to beg or sleep rough. Good accommodation and employment opportunities must be provided by the Government." He said some courts were imposing increasingly severe sentences.

Police say the growth in vagrancy in London is largely a social problem, but they have felt obliged to step up prosecutions because of public pressure. "We are in a catch-22 situation," Chief Inspector Bob Aitchison, community liaison officer for the Metropolitan Police's Westminster area, said yesterday. "We are criticized for using the Vagrancy Act and criticized by other sections of the public for not doing anything about the problem."

Police, however, were concerned about a minority of beggars who "threatened and intimidated" passers by. Dealing with vagrants could hardly be the responsibility of the police alone, he added. "Most people would accept there has been an increase in begging and homelessness in recent years. It is a social problem, but the police are left to pick up the pieces."

Sir David Hopkin, the Chief Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate, described vagrancy as a "very difficult social problem" which anyone who walked around London "with their eyes open" could not fail to recognize.

He said he felt great sympathy for most of the vagrants who appeared before him but a few made begging "a profession". "Some can make much more out of begging than from social security. When they are arrested it is not uncommon to find £20 or £30 on them," he said.

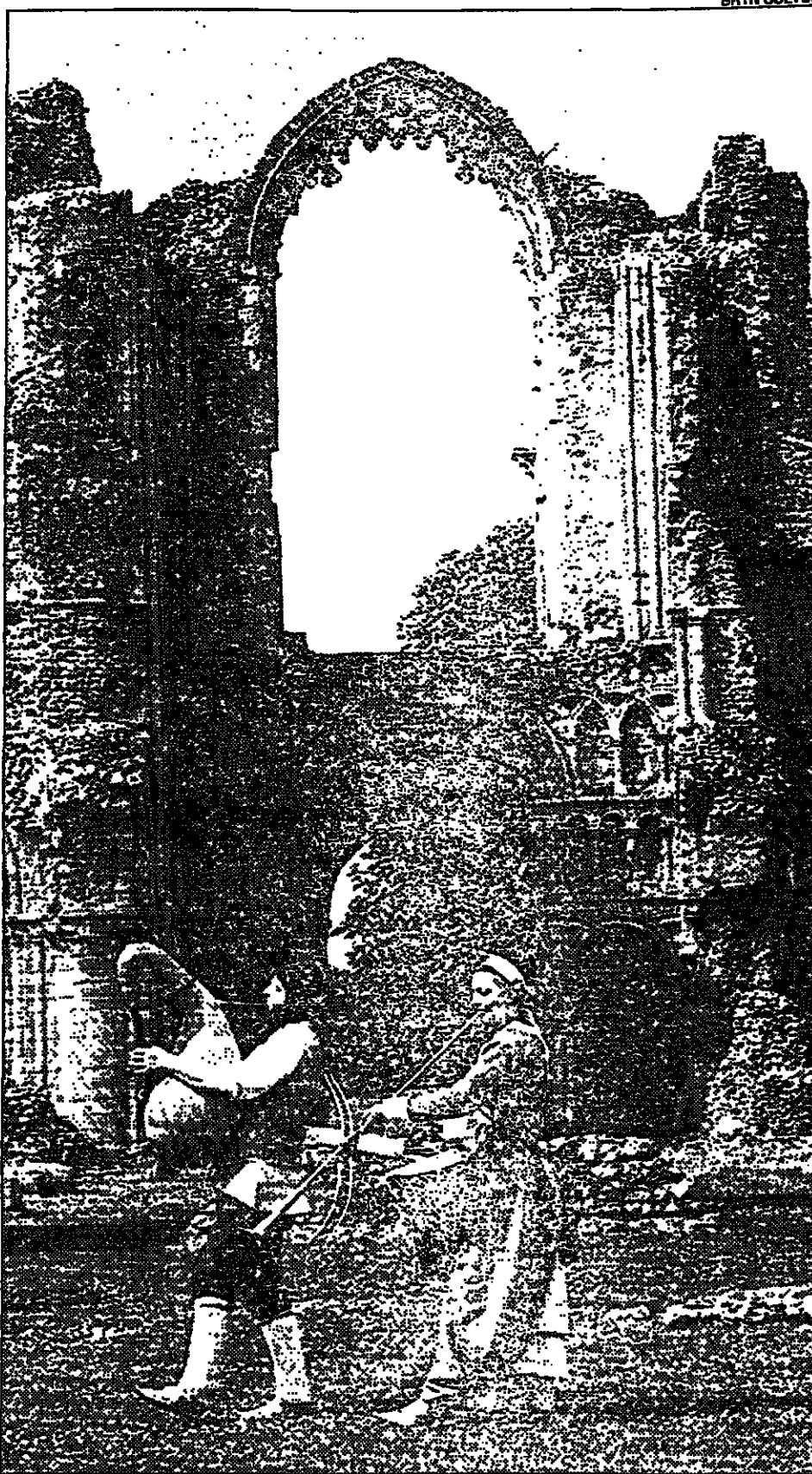
Sir David, a member of the Magistrates' Association's legal committee, said sentencing vagrants, particularly persistent beggars, was very difficult as most were unable to pay fines. It was rare that an offender spent time in jail; most spent the night in custody before their trial and a sentence of one day's imprisonment often meant they were released at the end of the hearing.

It is understood the Home Office is increasingly anxious about the rise in prosecutions. Senior officials are checking the rate of prosecutions and are considering establishing police projects under which police would make greater use of cautions for beggars and refer more offenders to specialist agencies.

The 1824 Act was introduced in the wake of the economic downturn which followed the Napoleonic Wars. Most beggars at that time were destitute former soldiers.

The Home Office said: "No one is sent to prison for being homeless. In general, the police only arrest for begging when there is some element of threatening behaviour."

"The basic purpose of vagrancy laws is to preserve public order and decency and to protect individuals from offence or injury. The Government shares the public concern about the problems of homelessness and departments are looking together at what more can be done to help," a Home Office spokesman said.



Roving troubadours: Rick and Helen Heaviesides at Castle Acre Priory, near Swaffham, Norfolk, the second venue on their summer tour of 21 English Heritage castles. The couple's repertoire stretches from the medieval to Victorian age

1907 Silver Ghost sold for £1.7m

By John Shaw

A BRITISH car dealer paid a record £1,702,000 for a 1907 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost, one of only four of its type known, at a £13 million sale of a remarkable car collection in Palm Beach, southern Florida.

Car Howard International, the leading London dealer in vintage and veteran Rolls-Royces, bought the top lot in the sale of 24 vehicles owned by the late Mr Rick Carroll, an insurance broker, staged by Sotheby's in the lush setting of the Breakers Hotel overlooking the Atlantic.

The Rolls was one of two which belonged originally to Samuel Stevens, a car-racing enthusiast, in Rome, New York. He liked the first so much he ordered a second for his mother. After his death the second car was found in the family garage and was eventually acquired by Mr Carroll. Sotheby's estimated it at \$1.1 million (\$1.3 million), but it sold for \$2.86 million.

Mr Stevens' first car, which Mr Carroll acquired in 1985, made \$2.25 million (£1.34 million) to a private American

buyer. He also bought a 1932 Duesenberg, known as "the French speedster", for \$1.76 million (£1.04 million). A 1931 Model J supercharged Mudd Coupé Duesenberg made \$1.87 million (£1.11 million) and a Model J convertible Victoria went for \$850,000 (£506,000), both bought by a classic car museum in Houston, Texas.

The auction was 100 per cent sold. Afterwards, Mr Malcolm Barber, head of Sotheby's car department, said the firm had sold vehicles worth £21 million since March and we move on to Monaco a week on Monday."

● Two tiny Japanese ivory carvings with links to Victorian Newcastle upon Tyne have just returned to the city. The 10cm high figures were given to George Wightwick Rendel, a director of the shipbuilders William Armstrong, by one of his Japanese customers in the 1870s. Mr Rendel's granddaughter gave them to the Tyne and Wear museum service with the help of the National Art Collections Fund.

Nurse shortage 'getting worse'

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

NURSING shortages are spreading from the big cities to rural areas, according to a report produced by Ms Harriet Harman, Labour's health spokesman, which is to be submitted to the Commons select committee on social services. She says the Government's view that the shortages are confined to a few regions and to a few specialties is "dangerously wrong".

In the Labour survey of 132 district health authorities, published today, all health regions reported difficulties in general recruitment. The worst areas were North East Thames, where all districts were affected, West Midlands (86 per cent of districts), South East Thames (85 per cent), East Anglia (80 per cent), Wessex (67 per cent) and Oxford (67 per cent).

Main problem areas included theatre nursing, where 44 per cent of authorities reported recruitment difficulties, psychiatrics (32 per cent) and paediatrics (30 per cent).

Ms Harman says: "The nurse shortage is serious and it

is getting worse. Patients do not get the care they need when wards are understaffed and nurses are overstretched.

"Standards fall when wards are run by a shifting team of agency nurses and nurses from other wards drafted in to cover the gaps. The Government is burying its head in the sand and there is no strategy to deal with this serious problem," she adds.

The report, *Nursing the NHS*, says that too much responsibility is loaded on to a small number of qualified nurses - one reason why 30,000 a year were leaving the NHS at a cost of £50 million.

● A new test which diagnoses early stages of cervical cancer has been developed by British researchers, who will present their findings at an international conference today (Thomson Prentice writes).

Studies of the method, involving almost 800 women, have shown it to be accurate in at least 90 per cent of cases, a higher rate than the existing cervical smear test. Dr Colin Partington, of University College and Middlesex School of Medicine, said yesterday.

Dr Partington, of the school's academic department of obstetrics and gynaecology, is giving details of the studies at a world congress of cervical pathology in Rome. He has developed the test with Dr Andrew Sincroff, of the same department, in a project funded by Quest Cancer Test, a small charity based in Roydon, Essex.

"The smear test is known to fall well below an accuracy of 90 per cent, with a worrying number of false negative results. We believe our technique is not only more accurate, but much quicker," Dr Partington said. The technique is based on the examination of a fragment of DNA taken from a conventional smear.



Resident of cardboard city and friend

Marketing and managerial era comes to barristers' chambers

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

A BARRISTERS' set of chambers is believed to have broken new ground with the appointment of its first director in charge of administration and marketing in place of the old-style barristers' clerk.

The chambers, at 2 Hare Court in the Temple, has appointed Mr Tim Barker, a manager formerly with the Trustee Savings Bank and a non-lawyer, to the post, marking a radical departure in the way the chambers will be run.

Mr Barker, aged 48, who was appointed through the use of a head-hunting firm, will be viewing the chambers - whose annual

turnover runs to several million pounds - as a small business.

"I will be taking the strategic view, looking at how we run the business, how we provide a service to clients, and what areas of work we should be in," The Bar, he added, was a new field which marketing had not addressed. "We have the chance with this appointment to capitalize on that."

At the same time, the chambers - acknowledged to be one of the leading sets in London - has broken new ground with the appointment of a public relations consultant, Mr Tim Devlin, who will devise its brochure.

Mr Stanley Brodie, QC, head of

chambers, said the decision to appoint a lay director had come about during debate on how the chambers should develop over the next decade. "The consensus was that the administration was anachronistic and not suited to the managerial function which a modern-day chambers required."

It was important, he added, that the chambers should be properly managed and presented as 1992 approached and the Bar faced competition for work from City firms of solicitors.

The chambers is already one of the top sets at the Bar. It is particularly strong in public law, commercial litigation and inter-

national law, and boasts such names as Mr Anthony Lester, QC, and Mr David Pannick, one of the rising stars of the profession.

At the same time it includes four well-known practising professors of law. The venture into marketing and professional administration is expected to set a trend: a key recommendation of the Bar's long-awaited strategy report, due out in the next few weeks, is that chambers adopt a similar approach.

Under the scheme, the senior clerk has retired but a team of junior clerks, who will negotiate with solicitors and handle fees and bookings, will remain.

Among the chamber's plans are

to develop its work abroad; not only in Brussels, where it has a branch, but in the United States and Japan. That is in line with Bar strategy to promote itself internationally, where clients can come to it directly and are not obliged to go through a solicitor.

Mr Devlin (son of the retired law lord, Lord Devlin), was appointed partly with an eye to such development; he already handles public relations for the International Bar Association.

● More than half the chambers in London have no brochure, two years after rules were relaxed allowing such publicity, according to a survey by College Hill Asso-

ciates, a public relations consultancy. The survey shows that of 200 sets responding to the survey, 122 had no brochure (60 per cent); 41 had a brochure available (20 per cent) and 37 had a brochure in preparation (20 per cent).

● Amnesty International has offered the Law Society half the places in its London crèche. The eight places, available to Law Society staff or solicitors' firms, were welcomed by Mr Jonathan Goldsmith, of the society. "We have to accept these places quickly if the offer is to stand," he said. "Depending on demand, we will then decide whether to continue with our plans for our own crèche."

Ryzhkov contradicts Gorbachov on pace of economic reform

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

MR NIKOLAI Ryzhkov, the Soviet Prime Minister, said at the weekend that the transition to a market economy would take many years and that it could, and should, be achieved without generating unemployment.

His statements, in a Soviet television interview, contrasted with remarks only 24 hours earlier by President Gorbachov to a Communist Party meeting here, where he said that reforms had to be speeded up, and admitted for the first time that some unemployment was inevitable.

The contradiction suggests that important policy differences have still not been ironed out barely two weeks before the leadership is due to unveil its programme to re-

vive the economy. The programme has been delayed twice already.

Mr Ryzhkov, who has emerged in recent weeks as a champion of the cautious approach to economic change, said that with an estimated 10 million job vacancies in the Soviet Union there was no reason why anyone should be redundant. Denying that any "shock therapy" was under consideration, he said that students, pensioners and others on low incomes would be "fully compensated" for any retail price rises, which would not be introduced until the beginning of next year.

Mr Gorbachov's remarks were made to a woman worker during a factory visit on Friday. Asked about the effect of the proposed reforms on jobs, he said: "There will be structural unemployment and, in fact, there is already." He added: "It is now clear that what takes two or three people to do here is done by one person in the West."

A fierce debate is being conducted by economists and consumers in the columns of all national newspapers. A stumbling block to the presentation of any reforms has been the use of the term "market economy", even in its watered-down, Gorbachovized version — the "planned-market economy". Citizens have been told for decades that the market is the law of the jungle, that it does not exist without unemployment and that it fosters cruel divisions.

An opinion poll of Muscovites for *Izvestia* last week said that 58 per cent favoured the switch to a market economy and only half of those said it should be done quickly.

In his weekend interview, Mr Ryzhkov said that retail

food prices would have to rise, but he gave an assurance that the price of staples — in which he included meat, milk, bread, butter, sugar and oil — would be controlled by the state. At present prices, milk and butter are permanently in short supply in many cities, bread is sold to livestock as being cheaper and more plentiful than fodder, and sugar is rationed. Meat is not often available in the provinces except at prohibitive prices.

Mr Ryzhkov's date of January 1990 for restructuring the Soviet price system is later than many people expect. Despite reassurances from President Gorbachov that nothing would be done without "full consultation with the people", the common expectation is that swingeing price rises will be introduced at or before the beginning of July.

July 1 is the date on which several pieces of new economic legislation come into force: the law on land use, which allows long-term leasing, and the law on property ownership, which allows private industrial activity.

In supporting the diversion of more funds to agriculture, Mr Ryzhkov was, deliberately or not, concurring with Mr Yegor Ligachov, the Central Committee Secretary for Agriculture, who said last week that far more money had to be spent on agriculture before any improvement could be expected. At present rates of subsidy, he said, the country would not be able to feed itself, "not now and not in 10 years' time either".

Last year's offer by the state to pay in hard currency for above-quota production seems to have been too late and too complicated to have provided an incentive.



Two students, masked to conceal their identities, setting fire to a book by Lenin during a rally yesterday in front of Moscow University

Kremlin moves to outlaw insults

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

IN AN attempt to prevent a recurrence of the anti-regime demonstration on May Day, the Soviet Parliament is considering a law that would make it an offence to insult the President.

The new offence, "publicly insulting the head of state of the Soviet Union", would carry a penalty of six years' imprisonment. If the offence was deemed to have been committed by a newspaper, publication could be suspended for an indefinite period.

Discussion of the draft law, formally entitled "Protecting the Honour and Dignity of the President", was begun without prior announcement at the Saturday session of the Supreme Soviet, but it failed to attract the required majority in one of the two chambers. As happened when the draft law to establish the presidency was rejected at its first reading, the Bill has been delegated to a special commission for redrafting before it is given a second reading. It is then likely to be passed without difficulty.

President Gorbachov, led the official party from their stand on top of the Lenin Mausoleum after informal groups turned the Red Square parade into a mass protest. He was clearly riled by the public display of hostility towards the Communist Party and his own leadership. Demonstrators carried placards calling on the Politburo to resign, and shouted "Down with Gorbachov" as he left the square.

The Bill applies only to personal insults, not to criticism of his policies or work. It was none the less, strongly criticized in the Supreme Soviet for its loose definition of an "insult". Did it include jokes and cartoons? asked one deputy.

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Solidarity 'runs' aid to Ukraine

From A Correspondent, Warsaw

POLAND'S Solidarity movement is helping to undermine Soviet control of the Ukraine by supplying training and equipment for the republic's pro-independence group. The secret operation has the tacit approval of the Polish Government although it breaks Polish and Soviet law.

Solidarity's aid consists of printing equipment, duplicators, matrices and silk screens, which are smuggled across the Polish-Soviet border using a complex system of bribes. In the past fortnight Solidarity's international branch has also sent duplicators and matrices as "gifts" to nationalist front groups set up as co-operatives.

As soon as the co-operatives receive the equipment they disband and the duplicators disappear for use in illegal printing houses. Ukrainians are being offered free lessons in printing techniques, distribution and propaganda training. Mr Andrei Ananich, the Solidarity member organizing the operation, said: "Solidarity has always had the philosophy that the further we can roll back Soviet control of Eastern Europe the more secure Poland will feel. We don't like smuggling but it is the only way to get equipment in."

US acts to thaw Moscow links

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

THE US Secretary of State, Mr James Baker, flies to Moscow today for a final round of talks with Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, his Soviet opposite number, which should determine whether this month's full presidential summit in Washington can put US-Soviet relations back on their previously productive and harmonious course.

Mr Baker is said to be taking "new ideas" in a last-ditch effort to break the log-jam and have far-reaching agreements on nuclear, conventional and chemical disarmament ready in time for what President Bush had labelled his "arms control summit", beginning on May 30.

US officials are deliberately playing down expectations, however. US-Soviet relations have chilled over Lithuania. President Gorbachov appears to be courting the Soviet military as his presidential authority weakens, and Washington is accusing Moscow of "dragging its feet" on arms control agreements it had considered sewn up.

The US Administration was particularly alarmed by the

Soviet attitude during Mr Shevardnadze's talks with Mr Baker in Washington last month. Far from making progress, US officials say the Soviet Foreign Minister sought to reopen a number of issues that Washington believed to have been resolved.

The chances of Mr Bush and Mr Gorbachov signing agreements to substantially reduce their chemical weapons stockpiles and to verify nuclear testing limits are still reasonable, but these are of secondary importance. Talks to reduce strategic nuclear weapons by up to 50 per cent have stalled because of disagreement on which cruise missiles should be included, and disputes over the definition of aircraft and helicopters are holding up talks on reducing conventional super-power forces in Europe.

In Washington, service chiefs have meanwhile presented Mr Richard Cheney, the Defence Secretary, with the long-term spending plans that he requested last autumn with a view to cutting the Pentagon's budget by two per cent a year in real terms.

Latvian talks set to continue

From Anatol Lieven, Tallinn

TALKS between Latvia and Moscow are to continue, despite the Latvian parliament's declaration of legal independence, it was announced on Latvian television at the weekend. Dr Ilmars Bisers and Dr Mavriks Wulfsons, the Latvian negotiators, expect to meet President Gorbachov's representatives tomorrow.

Mr Gorbachov repeated his offer of special status within a "renewed federation" at the weekend, in a letter asking for the views of President Arnold Ruitel of Estonia on what this special status should be. Mr Ruitel told the press that his Government had already made it clear that the offer "does not satisfy the aspirations of the Estonian people".

The former Latvian government delegation had responded to Mr Gorbachov's offer by raising the possibility of a "confederation" with the Soviet Union. This question was discussed further by the two sides at their last meeting on April 28, when the Latvians set out their view that it could only be between fully sovereign, independent states. Presumably, Moscow expects it to be on tomorrow's agenda.

Dr Bisers supports this idea, but much of the Latvian Popular Front distrusts it profoundly and it is not clear that the new Government under Dr Ivars Godmanis, the Prime Minister and Popular Front deputy chairman, will allow its representatives to pursue this question.

Another question is what effect the increasing moves towards a co-ordination of policy between the three Baltic states will have on the talks.

● Thatcher proposal: Mrs Thatcher is to raise Lithuania's demand for independence with Mr Gorbachov in Moscow next month, and will urge both sides to begin talking to each other.

Bonn pushes for speedy unity

From Ian Murray, Bonn

KEEPING relentlessly to his timetable for reunification, Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, flies to Berlin this morning to meet Herr Lothar de Maizière, the East German Prime Minister and Christian Democrat (CDU) leader, to discuss remaining problems in the draft treaty on currency, economic and social union which was thrashed out here over the weekend.

The draft treaty is incomplete, with important omissions on points which deeply concern East Germany, where there are growing fears that economic union will lead to mass unemployment and social unrest. Last week tens of thousands of East German workers joined warning strikes against the known terms of economic union.

Weekend opinion polls show the CDU is now the strongest party in both Germanies, and the Chan-

cellor is being urged on all sides to try to complete reunification quickly. Party advisers say serious problems are building up in East Germany which could damage the CDU's chances if he waits too long.

So the treaty should be endorsed by the two governments in the week ahead and be ready for approval by the Bundestag on June 23, in time for the July 2 target for the Deutschmark takeover of East Germany. Getting it through the Volkskammer could prove more difficult, however, because of the outstanding basic differences between the two countries. Chief among them is the right of West Germans to buy property, take over agricultural land and collective enterprises in East Germany.

The 38 articles of the state treaty which the experts have prepared do not cover these points and the East German

Government is still trying to find ways of stopping West German investors buying up the entire country after monetary union. Frau Regine Hildebrandt, a Social Democrat who is the East German Minister for Labour and Social Affairs, is already calling for an amendment to the treaty before it is even passed.

The East Berlin Government argues, too, that the local population will just not have enough money to hang on to their property if they are not protected from speculators. One idea is to stop anyone buying property unless they can prove that they are going to create jobs by doing so.

Although the Chancellor can expect the incomplete treaty to win approval from his own Government, Herr de Maizière is facing strong opposition from within his coalition, with the Social Democrat (SPD) members pressing him to win more

concessions from Bonn. Herr Stefan Hilsberg, the SPD party manager, said in an interview with *Bild am Sonntag* yesterday that some SPD ministers were threatening to resign unless more cash was made available, particularly for pensioners and to help run the health service.

He said a rash of protest strikes against the treaty was likely. The danger of that happening has even been acknowledged by Herr Peter-Michael Diestel, the Interior Minister.

Invitation to Queen disputed

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

THE Queen is the only head of state among the 12 European Community countries not to have visited the European Parliament, despite having been invited three years ago, it emerged yesterday.

Her decision to stay away reflects the coolness of the British Government towards the Parliament, compared with some EC nations. The Government is against any big increase in its powers, though it would accept some changes in its role.

Lord Plumb, Conservative MEP for the Cotswolds, said he invited the Queen during an audience in 1987, when he was president of the Parliament. She replied: "We will think about it."

Whitehall sources said no advice had been given to Buckingham Palace because there had been no official invitation to the Queen. Lord Plumb, however, disputed this.

State polls blow for Kohl

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn

HERR Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) are in danger of losing control of the Bundestag, the West German upper house, after yesterday's state elections in Lower Saxony and North Rhine-Westphalia.

First projections of the results last night showed that the CDU had failed to hang on to its narrow majority in Lower Saxony, where it has ruled for the past 16 years, in coalition with the Free Democrats (FDP) since 1986.

The Social Democrats (SPD) took over as the largest party, and were expected to win 70 seats compared with 67 for the CDU. This would enable them to form a coalition with the Greens, who won nine seats — the same number as the SPD. This opens the way for another "red-green" coalition similar to that which has ruled West Berlin since January last year. Since then other "red-green" coalitions have taken control of the local authorities in several important cities, including Frankfurt.

In the other state election yesterday, in North Rhine-Westphalia, the SPD kept its overall majority, although it lost a tiny proportion of seats.

The "red-green coalition" in Lower Saxony will enable the SPD to take over the state's five seats in the Bundestag, which has to approve all legislation passed by the lower house. This would give

the SPD a clear majority of 27-18 in the Bundestag, which the CDU has controlled until now with a majority of one.

The SPD will thus have power to block the legislation needed to pay for reunification. Herr Kohl has said the states will have to find a third of the costs for this out of their budgets, much to the anger of the SPD, which claims this will hit poorer areas.

Lower Saxony at present receives the equivalent of around £550 million a year in federal funds to help its depressed regions which stretch along the border with East Germany. Under Herr Kohl's plan the state will lose this and will be expected to find additional cash for East Germany.

Romanian gypsies flex new political muscles

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

AMONG the unsung beneficiaries of Romania's December revolution are the 2.3 million gypsies who are now struggling to overturn centuries of contempt as social pariahs and fashion themselves into a coherent political force in next week's general election.

In keeping with his general hostility to all national minorities, Nicolae Ceausescu attempted to put an end to the independence of a people who now describe themselves as "Romanian Romanians", to suppress their language and culture and absorb them into the Romanian majority.

Since his overthrow, the gypsies have enjoyed their first taste of political freedom

and the first opportunity to organize their own colourful song and dance festivals. They have also formed the Democratic Union of Romanian Romanians, which stands a strong chance of becoming the first gypsy party to win seats in a European parliament.

As Romania's first gypsy newspaper, *Sutra Libera*, (Free Camp) makes clear, the gypsy community will be giving full support to Mr Ion Iliescu, the former communist National Salvation Front candidate for President, while supporting the Democratic Union in the simultaneous parliamentary poll.

The paper, which carries a striking masthead of a gypsy girl breaking free from her chains, is fulsome in its praise for Mr Iliescu who, even without the gypsy vote, is way ahead as front-runner in the opinion polls. In a headline which indicates that Ceausescu's style of thinking has not yet been abandoned, it describes him as "shrewder than President Gorbachov".

Until the revolution, the Romanian gypsies had the image of outcasts whose life was mainly devoted to operating the thriving black market, cleaning the streets and begging. Those few who had regular jobs did repair work. "We do not want to see

Romanians begging any more," said Mr Nicolae Dragusin, head of a new Romany trade union which plans to organize the gypsies into formal businesses to market their traditional skills as craftsmen and performing artists.

In keeping with the hypocrisy which marked Ceausescu's dictatorship, gypsy music was banned from radio and television on his orders, but played at his private parties. "His idea was that we did not exist as a people," said one young gypsy, Mr Dmitri Gariau. "Now that has changed, I hope it will end the contempt which most Romanians still feel for us."

The gypsies, who represent 10 per cent of the electorate, have quickly grasped that, once properly organized, they may be able to secure rights equivalent to those enjoyed by other national minorities, notably the Hungarians. They are mostly devout Christians, but under communist rule were banned from using their language in church or even having Bibles printed in it.

Gypsy spokesmen claim that, during the 24 years of Ceausescu's rule, the community suffered as greatly as during the Second World War, when they were forced to migrate to camps in Russia, where some 35,000 died.



Nicolae Ceausescu: Tried to curb gypsy culture

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SELL IT THROUGH THE TIMES

Colombian drug dealers' bombs kill 26 shoppers

From Daniel Corby, Bogotá

AT LEAST 26 people were killed, among them seven children, and 170 were injured when three car bombs exploded in Colombia at the weekend. Two of the bombs went off in the capital and one in Cali.

The Bogotá bombs were detonated within minutes of each other on Saturday, shortly after 4pm, in two shopping centres in the north-west of the capital. The shops were full of customers searching for last-minute Mother's Day gifts.

Both bombs were estimated to contain about 200lb of dynamite and had been reinforced with pieces of scrap metal. They were left in cars in the public car park. The explosions damaged some 30

shops and hundreds of houses in the area.

Emergency services were overwhelmed by the numbers of dead, dying and injured. Private cars were used to take victims to the nearest hospitals, some of which did not have enough surgeons to deal with those injured by pieces of flying metal and glass. The local Red Cross issued an urgent appeal for blood.

Police said the Bogotá bombings were the work of the Medellín drug traffickers who have waged war on the state since the Government cracked down last August on their activities. So far no one has claimed responsibility.

"There's no doubt. It's an act of drug-terrorism which continues making many people innocent victims of its evil instincts," Colonel José Camero, the operational chief of the Bogotá police, told Colombian television.

Police in Cali said the bomb there might have been linked to a feud between the two biggest cocaine cartels, based in Medellín and Cali. Businesses believed to be linked to the Cali cartel had been attacked earlier.

In recent months attacks have been largely aimed at police and government targets, particularly in the city of Medellín. Many observers fear that the attacks against the shopping centres represent a new phase in the drug war.

Those members of the Medellín cartel who call themselves the "Extraditables" have repeatedly offered to give up their cocaine-producing activities and hand themselves over to the Colombian justice authorities on the condition that they are not extradited to the United States to be tried there.

Last January the drug traffickers kidnapped three people including Señor Alvaro

Montoya, the son of President Barco's secretary. Negotiations have led to the release of the hostages. In what they described as a gesture of good faith, the cartel has declared a ceasefire and handed over one ton of dynamite, two cocaine laboratories and a helicopter stolen from the police.

There have been press reports quoting the mediators between the cartel and the Government as saying that negotiations had included discussions regarding terms for the cartel's qualified surrender. However, President Barco, speaking before his recent meeting with President Bush at the Cartagena summit on drugs, was insistent that his Government had never entered into talks about talks with the drug traffickers.

After the summit the cartel declared that the truce was over and began attacking police targets in Medellín.

Last week, the authorities arrested two of the men who played a key role as mediators in the January hostage negotiations, underlining the Government's determination to pursue a military solution. It has been suggested that Saturday's bombings could have been reprisals for this action.

Colombia is due to hold presidential elections on May 27. Señor Cesar Gaviria, the candidate of the ruling Liberal Party, appeared in a firm favourite to retain the presidency for his party. He is the only leading candidate who refuses to consider the cartel's proposal. Some analysts have suggested that the Colombian Government was being pressured by the United States to stay clear of any deal.

Most opposition candidates have called for a new approach. A poll published on April 25 indicated that 72 per cent of Colombians do not agree with Señor Gaviria.



Distraught members of a Bogotá family looking with horror at the body of a relative killed by one of the bombs

Demjanjuk starts fight for life

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

TWO years ago, amid scenes of Israeli jubilation and approval, Ivan Demjanjuk was condemned to death as a sadistic Nazi war criminal known to inmates of the Treblinka death camp in Poland as "Ivan the Terrible". Today Demjanjuk begins a battle in the Israeli Supreme Court to stave off execution by proving that he is not the man who sent 850,000 people to

the gas chambers, but the victim of mistaken identity.

If he loses, Demjanjuk, a Ukrainian said to have been an especially brutal camp guard, will become the first convicted war criminal to be executed in Israel since the celebrated "glass cage" trial of Adolf Eichmann in 1962. To ensure he avoids this fate, Mr Yoram Shefiel, Demjanjuk's defence lawyer, is to produce new evidence from Mrs Maria Dudek, a Polish woman aged 74 who claims that "Ivan the

Terrible" was not Demjanjuk, but another Ukrainian named Ivan Marchenko.

In response, the prosecution, according to sources here, will seek to prove that "Marchenko" and Demjanjuk are the same person, Marchenko being Demjanjuk's mother's maiden name. The death sentence, the prosecution argues, must therefore stand. If its first line of attack fails, however, the defence could seek to show that the original identification of Dem-

janjuk as "Ivan" by Treblinka survivors was based on faulty evidence. The US Office of Special Investigations, which supplied much of the identification evidence, is alleged by the defence to have concealed the fact that some crucial testimony on Demjanjuk, a car worker in Ohio at the time of his arrest, was unreliable.

The appeal is to be less of a media event than the trial. It will be heard in a small courtroom, with few places for press and public.

Italians seize supergun parts

From Paul Bompard, Rome

POLICE in Terni, Naples and Brescia have seized what they believe to be Italian-made components of the Iraqi "supergun". According to the police, almost 100 tonnes of titanium steel components were for the giant cannon's bridge section, and would have been assembled with the steel tubes, presumably part of the gun's barrel, which were confiscated in Middlesbrough on April 11.

British Customs and Excise announced yesterday that it will collaborate with its Italian colleagues and may send experts this week to examine the confiscated parts.

The carabinieri para-military police acted after an investigation by Italian, and possibly other, intelligence services which had traced parts seized in Greece to manufacturers in Italy, it was announced at the weekend.

In Naples, they confiscated four containers about to be loaded on to an Italian ship due to sail for Iraq yesterday. Listed as "forged steel parts", they are thought to be components of the cannon's bridge.

At the same time, police raided the Società Delle Fucine, the special steel producers in Terni, north of Rome, where the material was produced. The company is owned by IRI, Italy's largest state holding company. Police confiscated other steel components and documents.

In Brescia, the police raided two unidentified companies and confiscated material described as "tie-rods and shock absorbers" — possibly parts of the recoil mechanism.

● Customs view: British Customs confirmed yesterday that the parts seized were manufactured in Italy (Jamie Dettmer writes). They believe that they were intended for the Iraqi supergun project.

Australia convicts relish freedom

From Robert Cockburn, Brisbane

WITH a sense of disbelief Kevin Shillingworth watched the rooftop drama at Strangeways Prison last month on television here in his own cell.

Having served six years for rape in Queensland's notorious penal system, the scenes had a grim familiarity. But he was viewing the drama from Australia's first commercially run prison, Borallon, with its freedoms, comforts and officers who say "Hi Kevin." They gave him his own room key and he says he is still in "culture shock."

"I'm trying to adapt but it's hard," he says pointing to his bed, shower, toilet, basin, table and space for a computer for his studies. "The officers treat you like human beings."

Faced with a prison crisis as serious as Britain's, Queensland has started a programme of radical reform. The state's new Labor Government intends to empty its jails of all non-violent offenders within five years. The remaining 30 per cent, less than 1,000 prisoners, will serve their time in Borallon-style conditions.

Suggesting a health farm, the brochure says: "Welcome to Borallon," above photographs of its manager, Mr Brian Dickson, a beaming Yorkshireman; a modern classroom; and facilities which include tennis courts and indoor cricket. "It's only one star," laughs an inmate.

But the relaxed atmosphere conceals the controversy the prison has caused. The Prison Officers' Union doubts the ability of Borallon's smaller number of staff, provided by a private security firm, to handle potential trouble. And the morality of turning the debt that an offender has to society into corporate profit causes deep misgivings among civil rights groups which criticize what they see as the state's abrogation of its responsibility.

But the privatization debate is only a part of the story. The Labor Government, elected at the end of last year, is trying to reverse 30 years of right-wing National Party rule which turned the state's jails into human warehouses, according to Mr Glen Milner, the Justice Minister. The state's imprisonment rate, more than 140 for every 100,000 adults, is twice that of the state of Victoria.

Plea for calm as Haifa cemetery attack sparks call for reprisals

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem

IN THE wake of the gruesome and bizarre desecration of a Jewish cemetery at Carpentras in France last week, Israelis reacted with horror yesterday to large scale vandalism at a Jewish cemetery in Haifa, allegedly carried out by Arab extremists.

Leading right-wing politicians were swift to support demands for distraught relatives of the dead for "tough action against the Arabs" after 250 graves in two Haifa cemeteries had been defaced overnight with graffiti. The slogans, some in perfect Hebrew, called for the establishment of a Palestinian state and added: "The Arabs will kill the Jews." The messages, in black spray paint, were signed with the names of nearby Arab villages.

But, as police moved in reinforcements to the area to prevent Arab-Jewish friction, senior police officers called for calm and said they were "not jumping to conclusions" about local Arab involvement. Officials hinted that the desecration could have been perpetrated by Jewish extremists hoping to swing Israeli opinion further to the right just as Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the caretaker Prime Minister, is forming a right-of-centre government likely to depend for survival on small right-wing groups and individuals in the Knesset (parliament). Yesterday Mr

Revhani Zeevi, a far-right MP who favours the deportation of Arabs from Israel, said the perpetrators of the Haifa attacks should "leave the country, if not voluntarily then by force".

The incident at Haifa — a mixed Arab-Jewish community where tensions normally prevail — comes at a time when right-wing figures are manoeuvring to gain key portfolios in Mr Shamir's new administration.

Over the weekend Mr Shamir circulated a confidential paper to senior officials in his Likud party suggesting which ministries might be given to Likud's allies among the Orthodox religious and right-wing parties. Some officials, alarmed that Mr Shamir had listed Mr Ariel Sharon as a possible Defence Minister, leaked the document in what appears to be the beginning of a "stop Sharon" movement within Likud itself.

Likud sources said Mr Shamir had also proposed Mr Moshe Arens, the present Foreign Minister, for the Defence Ministry, and could even take the post himself. Mr Shamir is due to tell President Herzog by Thursday whether he has been able to form a new coalition, but is likely to ask for a further three weeks in which to complete his right of centre Cabinet.

Observers here see no prospect of a Labour-Likud grand

coalition of the kind which collapsed in March over American plans for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

Today marks the first anniversary of the acceptance by the Labour-Likud coalition Government of Mr Shamir's plan for Arab elections in the occupied territories leading to limited self-rule. Likud officials said a new Shamir Government would continue to pursue this plan, but would not allow the United States to turn it into a plan for indirect talks with the Palestine Liberation Organization on the eventual establishment of a Palestinian state.

● PARIS: Some 10,000 people from all over France flocked to the Jewish cemetery at Carpentras yesterday for a moving ceremony to pray for the 34 dead whose graves were broken into last week (Susan MacDonald writes).

Among the crowd were four government ministers, several opposition politicians and well-known figures from the world of the arts. Also there was Mme Louise Germon, whose recently deceased husband had been removed from his tomb and impaled on an umbrella spike.

In a poignant speech M Joseph Siruk, the Chief Rabbi of France, asked her late husband's forgiveness that the Jewish community and the people of France had not been sufficiently prepared to pro-

tect him. Referring to the increase in racist, and in particular anti-Semitic, crimes Rabbi Siruk said: "We cannot continue to let this happen. French democracy lies not in lofty principles but in its behaviour."

M Jean Kahn, President of the Jewish Council in France, admitted last month that desecration of Jewish graves is increasing, but this one act has forced people to face up to the rising tide of racism here, particularly directed against North African and black African immigrants and Jews.

Declarations of outrage have come from all political parties and religious faiths. Organizations as diverse as the Chinese community's association and the Islamic women's association have joined the protest.



Mr Sharon: May be given defence portfolio

Cocaine cartel diverts arms sent to Antigua

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

THE murky waters of unauthorized Israeli arms supplies to Third World dictators and racketeers have been further muddied by the disclosure that hundreds of rifles and sub-machine guns sent by Israel to equip the tiny police force on the island of Antigua in the Caribbean ended up in the hands of a Colombian drug trafficker.

An Antigua investigating team left Israel yesterday after a week of fruitless inquiries. "The Israelis were friendly and co-operative, but we still don't have any answers," said Mr Patrick Lewis, Antigua's representative at the United Nations, who headed the investigation.

Details of unofficial Israeli arms sales to Colombian drug traffickers first emerged in August last year when it was alleged that Colonel Yair Klein, a retired Israeli arms expert skilled in counter-insurgency, had trained and supplied mercenary "killer squads" working for a drug cartel in Medellín. Colonel Klein and his Tel Aviv-based security firm "Spearhead" are still under investigation. This week the Antigua team was allowed access to Colonel Klein to see if he could throw any light on the diversion of guns from Antigua to Colombia. As the Antiguans politely put it: "He declined to answer our questions."

This latest in a line of

unauthorized "spin-offs" from the large Israeli defence industry began five years ago when Lieutenant Colonel Clyde Worker, the Antigua chief of staff, approached a representative of an Israeli military company in the United States. He was told to make an official request which could then be passed to Israeli government channels.

Subsequent contacts with Israel were made through Mr Maurice Sarfati, who has close links with Israel and owns a ranch on Antigua. Mr Sarfati

was reportedly given a letter appointing him an Antigua "special envoy". He presented an order in November 1988 for 400 Gali assault rifles, 100 Uzi sub-machine guns and ammunition.

Israeli sources said the problems arose with Israeli arms supplies because Israel had built up a multi-million pound arms industry for self-defence, and had difficulty preventing "maverick" former army officers from offering their services around the world.

Pakistanis flock to see Rushdie routed

From Zahid Hussain, Lahore

THE audience at the Shabistan Cinema, Lahore, waited for the finale as four Pakistani guerrillas headed by a former police officer and a woman sergeant outwitted Salman Rushdie and asked him for repentance for his blasphemous utterances against the holy Koran. Rushdie, heading a powerful, well-armed international gang of criminals working to eliminate Islam, would not budge and lightning emanating from the Koran ended his life.

That is the ending of a three-hour Punjabi/Urdu

thriller *International Guerrillas* which is showing at more than 100 cinemas in Pakistan and breaking box office records. A crowd thronged the Shabistan Cinema on Abbott Road, Lahore's main entertainment centre, on Friday for the evening show to buy black market tickets. Security guards repeatedly baton charged a crowd of people unable to get tickets.

The author of *The Satanic Verses* is portrayed as a wicked villain, head of a huge international network and commanding a large personal army.



Striking accord: Composer Andrew Lloyd Webber meets President Bush at the University of South Carolina, where both received honorary degrees on Saturday.

Races in conflict at Red Apple grocery

From James Bone, New York

IT TAKES quite a nerve to go shopping at the Red Apple grocery on Church Avenue in Brooklyn.

The neighbourhood does not feel particularly rough, considering it falls squarely in the borough's tribal belt. On my walk from the local subway station, only one tough accented me, and all he wanted to know, in the famous Brooklyn drawl, was "Hey, what's up, big guy?" And, unlike in Manhattan, there were no beggars. They work in richer areas.

But, about four blocks from the shop, two policemen in riot gear were diverting all traffic. From then on, Church Avenue was awash with police.

Merely to enter the Korean-owned grocery, I had to pass through a throng of jeering black demonstrators, and then explain to a line of 10 burly New York policemen, each with his arms crossed and drawn up to his full height, what my business was. I decided it would be appropriate for *The Times* to try to purchase an English muffin — nothing other than a crumpet — a common item in the city's groceries.

After pushing through the police line, I made my essay. But, alas, the

shelves were bare. Fresh out of English muffins. I settled for a 99 cent (58p) can of baked beans.

The Red Apple on Church Avenue is one of several flashpoints in New York where racial hostility threatens to boil over into violence. With the regional economy failing and a long, hot summer ahead, almost everyone in the city now fears that sporadic rioting will erupt.

The most popular scenario is a real-life replay of *Do the Right Thing*, last year's controversial film by Spike Lee, a black director, which records how frustrated blacks sack an old Italian pizzeria in the Brooklyn neighbourhood of Bedford-Stuyvesant after its owner has a dispute with a black customer.

But tension is also high outside the Brooklyn courthouse, where separate juries are deliberating over the fate of two Italian-Americans accused of killing a black youth who strayed into their Bensonhurst neighbourhood last summer. That case is widely credited with swinging last year's mayoral election in favour of Mr David Dinkins, the first black to lead New York.

In a desperate attempt to cool the city's fraying tempers, Mr Dinkins made an impassioned speech on Friday night condemning racism.

Offering to mediate in the Red Apple dispute, the Mayor told the city council: "This city is sick of violence. We're aching and we must heal the pain."

Four local television stations broadcast his address live. But, outside the Red Apple, the message apparently went unheeded.

As night closed in on Saturday, more than 100 demonstrators were still manning the picket. A judge ruled that they were supposed to stay at least 50 yards from the grocery, but the police let them within 10ft. One explained that Mr Dinkins should start speaking for himself and not his "Zionist masters".

"African people in New York will not give up their right to assemble and speak freely," said the woman on the soapbox with the megaphone. "Nobody from this neighbourhood comes here to shop. It is only a matter of time. We will continue the boycott."

The boycott has, in fact, been under way since January 18, when blacks from the area took up position outside the shop, accusing its Korean owners of beating a Haitian customer — an allegation they deny.

It has inevitably turned into another expression of blacks' frustration at their continued impoverishment while others start up businesses

to take their money. A second Korean grocery in Brooklyn is also being targeted. With the Bensonhurst verdict due any day, emotions have reached fever pitch.

Inside the Red Apple, a handful of embattled Koreans chatted idly, waiting for customers they know will not come.

"The customers won't enter here," said Mr Bong Jang Jae, the owner. "The people outside follow them and go to their homes and say they are going to kill them. The customers are scared."

Mr Bong came to America from Korea seven years ago and, like many of his compatriots arriving in New York, went into the grocery business, which is dominated by Koreans. Since the boycott began he has been taking in less than \$20 a day — although a mysterious local black sympathizer walked in on Friday and handed him a \$100 bill — and cannot pay his rent, electricity or water bills.

His Korean landlord has forgiven him the rent, and Korean-American groups have set up a fund to help him out with other expenses. But the boycott goes on.

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Colony fears ripple effect of US punishing China

From Charles Bremner, Hong Kong

HONG KONG will plunge into severe recession if the United States decides to punish China by ending its "favoured nation" trading status, a senior government official said at the weekend.

The forecast, by Mr Chris Jackson, the Assistant Director of Trade and Industry, was the strongest warning so far of the likely costs of a decision by Congress not to renew the privileged tariff levels when China's status comes up for renewal next month. President Bush is expected to approve continued Most Favoured Nation status rather than inflict by far the biggest US sanction against Peking over the Tiananmen massacre last June. However, sentiment in Congress is strongly against prolonging the privilege in order to signal disapproval of continuing repression of dissent.

Mr Jackson said Hong

Kong faced dire losses, up to 7 per cent of the territory's annual trade, which reached HK\$1,138 billion (£87.5 billion) last year. At least 20,000 jobs would be lost. "Withdrawal of China's Most Favoured Nation status would cause a recession in South China and here," he said.

While facing the loss of its privileged trade status, Peking is also being forced to consider a response to the challenge of the Goddess of Democracy radio ship, which sailed into port in Taiwan yesterday.

Sir David Wilson, the Governor, has sent a message to Mr Bush putting the Hong Kong case. A team of officials has also gone to Washington to draw attention to the impact on the colony, which acts as intermediary in about 25 per cent of China's overseas trade. "Punishing China," Mr Jackson said, would be a "nasty knock from a good friend at the wrong time for Hong Kong."

The loss of Chinese trade could prove devastating on top of the recent loss of business confidence in the colony, local businessmen believe. Depressed by a slowdown in world trade, and also by the uncertainties of the colony's future, the economy recorded a sharp drop in the final quarter of last year, according to figures released on Saturday. Production fell 3 per cent, a figure that has added to fears of a recession.

The Goddess of Democracy, a former British research ship manned by a collection of sailors and French journalists, clanked into the northern Taiwan port of Keelung to a noisy welcome from crowds of supporters, many of whom

hurled flowers at the vessel. It is nearly two months since the Goddess, managed by a consortium led by the French *Actual* magazine, left La Rochelle with its scheme to beam dissenting opinion into China for the month before the anniversary of the Tiananmen massacre.

The vessel plans to take on board two radio transmitters and start broadcasting music and "pro-democracy" news and interviews from international waters within a week. If it succeeds, China will be forced to choose from three unattractive options, diplomats say. It can attempt to seize the vessel; it can try to jam its signals; or just ignore it. A military assault in international waters would cause an outcry just as Peking is attempting to persuade the US to maintain its trading status. However, Chinese officials here noted wryly that France had escaped almost scot free when it sank the Greenpeace vessel *Rainbow Warrior* in New Zealand eight years ago.

Jamming is only partially effective and expensive. Doing nothing would inflict a loss of face on Peking, which has raised the diplomatic stakes with its threats of "unfavourable consequences" towards countries that help the ship. Even if the medium-wave broadcast is weak and only extends 100 miles inland, as predicted, there would be heavy symbolism in Peking's failure to stifle an electronic voice of opposition.

Within hours of the vessel docking in Taiwan, President Yang of China denounced the venture as an attempt to overthrow the Government of his country. To reinforce the

gravity with which it views the venture, China sent one of its submarines to shadow the ship last week, surfacing long enough to be identified.

The rare sighting of a communist military craft close to the nationalist island sent a wave of anxiety through Taiwan on Friday, depressing the stock market among other things. But Mr Han Pei-tsun, the Defence Minister, said there was no cause for alarm.

However, it is becoming clear that Taiwan, like Hong Kong and other governments in the region, has grown so nervous of Peking's wrath that it is anxious to avoid abetting a scheme it deems "a dangerous plot to subvert the authority of the communist state". Although officially in a state of hostility with China, Taiwan says it cannot support the radio ship because its broadcasts would break global laws against pirate broadcasting signed by Taipei.

It has told the ship that it will not be allowed back for resupply if it goes ahead with broadcasting. Given the lack of facilities elsewhere, this could severely hamper the enterprise. The "Boat for China Association", as the consortium is called, said Taiwan had also delayed the transmitters in Customs.

"We never imagined things could become so difficult," said Mr Pascale Dupont, an *Actual* reporter and the ship's chief spokesman in Taipei. On top of the apparent Taiwanese obstruction, the reporters on the ship said disagreements had erupted among the sponsors over whether Chinese dissidents should board the ship to participate live in the broadcasts.



Indian exodus: Dispossessed people carrying salvaged belongings through the roads of the coastal city of Machilipatnam, escaping hunger and epidemics after the worst cyclone in eastern India in more than a decade. Four days after the cyclone hit the Andhra Pradesh coast with 145mph winds, state officials said the death toll had risen to 322, with reports of more deaths coming in as relief workers reach marooned villages. Survivors yesterday searched for hundreds of missing friends and relatives. Mr Ramesh Babu, a resident of Machilipatnam, the port city at the heart of the

disaster area, said: "Yerrumudi had a population of 6,000 people and it's been completely wiped out. I fear most of them have perished." Tidal waves more than 20ft high surged 10 miles inland, sweeping away mud-brick villages and causing massive flooding. Helicopters have begun dropping food and water to the 1,400 villages marooned by floods or cut off by trees and power lines blocking roads. Mr Channa Reddy, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, said losses in the rich farmlands producing rice, sugar cane and fruit would amount to about £180 million. (Reuters)

Yemeni armed forces merged

Sanaa CONSERVATIVE North and Marxist South Yemen have united their armed forces and agreed to withdraw them from their capitals in the latest swift move towards an historic merger due this month.

Officials and diplomats have predicted that a united Yemen would be declared before the end of May. The Sanaa-based weekly *26 September* quoted "reliable sources" yesterday as saying the declaration would come during the last week of May, six months ahead of schedule.

President Saleh of North Yemen said on Saturday that the security forces of both countries had been dissolved. "From now on there is no reason for the existence of the state security organ in Aden and the national security organ in Sanaa - both have been dissolved within the framework of the united state," Sanaa radio quoted him as saying. "It is our view that the capitals should be cleared of armed forces which should be withdrawn to defined military zones... rather than piling up weapons in the capitals."

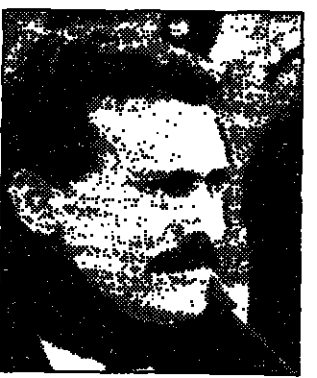
Diplomats here said the announcement cleared one of the main stumbling blocks to the merger. Colonel Saleh's Government has strong military support while South Yemen wants a clear separation between the state and military. "Armies will be moved to border areas of the new state and there will be a larger role in the cities for a unified police force," one diplomat said.

The weekly *26 September* said Colonel Saleh and Mr Ali Salem al-Baidh, the head of the ruling South Yemen Socialist Party, would decide the date for a meeting between both parliaments at a summit in Aden. The parliaments are due to ratify a draft constitution approved in November, in the last important step before the unity declaration.

A joint ministerial meeting on May 20 will approve the rules of the merger process, the paper said. Diplomats and officials in North Yemen say the merger has been speeded up to forestall any attempts to undermine the creation of the new state of 12 million people. Saudi Arabia yesterday expressed renewed support for the union and denied a press report that it was trying to sabotage the move.

Initial plans called for the state to be announced by November 30 after a popular vote on the unity constitution. Diplomats say the referendum has apparently been scrapped and the six-month transition period initially envisaged extended to 2½ years to allow time for ministries to merge and political parties to form. Elections will be held at the end of that period.

Officials say Colonel Saleh will be named President of the united Yemen and Mr al-Baidh Vice-President. It was not known what would happen to President Abu Bakr al-Atas, the present South Yemen leader. (Reuters)



President Saleh: To head a united Yemeni state

'Back to Genghis' promise

Ulan Bator

A MONGOLIAN opposition group has proclaimed itself a political party and pledged to recreate aspects of the golden age of Genghis Khan's 13th century Mongol empire.

About 650 delegates cheered and roared "Mongol, Mongol!" as the party leader, Mr Daadorgin Garmbold, announced the establishment of the Mongolian Party of National Progress, with a 2,000 membership. (Reuters)

Firemen hurt

Griesheim - West German police said that 45 volunteer firemen were taken to hospital after fighting a blaze at a printing plant here. (AP)

Charity raided

Kampala - Ugandan troops have searched the Kampala office of the Kuwait-based International Islamic Charitable Foundation and detained four members of its staff. (Reuters)

Cello furioso

Rome - The Russian cellist, Mstislav Rostropovich, stormed out of a performance at a Rome concert hall because he was angry at being televised without advance warning. (Reuters)

Deng quashes rumours of death

From Catherine Sampson, Peking

CHINA'S reclusive elder statesman, Mr Deng Xiaoping, appeared in public for the first time in more than three months yesterday, quashing rumours that he was dead, which had affected stock exchanges on Friday morning.

Mr Deng met President Mubarak of Egypt, described by Chinese officials as "China's old friend". In a departure from normal practice, only Chinese and Egyptian reporters were allowed to witness the meeting.

Foreign journalists based in Peking have become avid Deng-watchers in recent years,

analysing the slur in his speech and the glaze in his eye in an effort to get some inkling of his health. The last time they got a glimpse of him was in February, when he congratulated the drafters of Hong Kong's Basic Law. At that point, his speech was almost unintelligible but he walked unaided, if stiffly.

While no official information is forthcoming on how China's leaders, manage in general to be so long-lived, many Chinese believe it is because they gather around them experts of Qigong, an

offshoot of Chinese medicine which involves an aura, or energy field, emanating from the hands of the doctor, which heals the patient without touching him.

China's Foreign Ministry had denied on Friday that Mr Deng was dead, but his appearance yesterday was clearly calculated to dispel any lingering doubts.

President Yang also put in a word vouching for Mr Deng's good health, saying at an airport press conference here yesterday that Mr Deng still played bridge.

Mr Deng no longer holds

any official post. On his retirement, he said the only foreigners he would see were "old friends" visiting Peking. It is a measure of China's closed door to the corridors of power that this 85-year-old, who is absent from the public eye for long stretches, is judged by diplomats and Chinese analysts alike still to be the emperor of China's Communist Party.

Those same analysts expect that Mr Deng's death, when it comes, may augur a period of ruthless political infighting and possibly renewed unrest on the streets of China's cities.

US airmen shot in Philippines

From Vyvyan Tenorio, Manila

TWO American airmen were shot dead by suspected communist guerrillas outside Clark air base yesterday, on the eve of US-Philippines talks on the future of American military bases in the country.

The airmen were named by police as James Green, aged 21, and John Rayben, aged 22, both from the Kunsan air base in South Korea, on temporary duty in the Philippines. They were in civilian clothes and had just stepped out of an

hotel in Angeles city, 50 miles north of Manila, when they were shot.

Before the latest shooting the guerrilla New People's Army had killed eight Americans during the past 2½ years as part of its campaign to force the removal of American bases from the Philippines.

The Philippines and the United States today begin what could be protracted talks on the future of the six US military installations in the Philippines. Although there is growing anti-bases sentiment in the Philippines, as well as rising American criticism of President Aquino's Government, there is a strong belief among local analysts and Western diplomats that use of the two main bases, Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base, will be extended for at least 10 years.

"Anything under 10 years will be difficult for the Americans to accept," said one Western observer. "They would of course prefer to have the lease run for another 25 years."

Analysts believe that the Philippines Government's bargaining position has been considerably weakened after the right-wing coup attempt last December. They say that her Government, facing tremendous political, social and economic problems, is not prepared to risk losing sorely needed United States military and economic assistance that comes as an aid package in return for the use of the bases.

Analysts point to declining investor confidence in the Philippines which could fall drastically if the bases were closed down.

India considers banning sex determination tests

From Christopher Thomas, Delhi

THE Indian Government is studying plans to ban amniocentesis to determine the sex of unborn children - a practice so widespread it is starting to make a discernible impact on the population.

The tests are used by vast numbers of pregnant women who are desperate to have only sons. Abortions are freely available under Government birth control programmes.

India already has substantially more men than women, and social workers say the gap is widening in areas of the country where doctors have established profitable sex-determination clinics. Within a few generations the practice could create a serious numerical imbalance between men and women. The male population has always been larger - there are 10 men to every nine women - because many unwanted girl babies are starved, poisoned or abandoned.

Many girls who survive are chronically malnourished, particularly in rural areas where the birth of a daughter is greeted with despair. The arrival of a son, conversely, is a matter of great rejoicing, and boys generally grow up much stronger because they are given the best of whatever is available. A private survey in a district of the southern state

of Tamil Nadu found that 6,000 new-born girls had died of poisoning in the past 10 years. Most were fed oleander berries, which are deadly. Police never take action, since they lack manpower and forensic expertise - and, indeed, the will to tamper with such deep-rooted prejudice.

Girls are seen as a liability because they never bring home good wages, they require a dowry when they marry, they do not carry on the family name, and they are unable to care properly for aged parents because they live with their in-laws.

Sex determination is widespread, even in some of the remotest and poorest districts, because women are willing to travel enormous distances for amniocentesis. The technique is having a far bigger impact on the female population than neglecting new-born daughters, since most unwanted girls do, nevertheless, survive.

Mr V. P. Singh, the Prime Minister, announced that the Government was considering legislation to ban sex determination except for genuine medical reasons. But, judging by the experience of the big western state of Maharashtra, which banned sex determination, the central Government has hardly a hope of

curtailing the practice. There, prices for amniocentesis tests have soared since they became illegal and can cost a prohibitive 3,500 rupees (£122).

Poor women resort to backstreet quacks, often leading to the birth of mentally retarded sons. The better-off can pay doctors to sign a form saying the foetus may have a genetic abnormality, which allows them to undergo amniocentesis.

Legislation outlawing sex determination is not only resented in rural areas: middle-class urban women, too, argue in favour of amniocentesis. One wrote in a Delhi newspaper: "We concede a mother's right to choose to abort an unwanted pregnancy, yet we insist that her choice must be blind. Why must women be rendered criminals for wanting sons?"

Madagascar troops thwart coup attempt

Antananarivo

REBELS seized the state radio station of the Indian Ocean republic of Madagascar early yesterday, but the Government quickly regained control after the coup attempt failed to secure mass support.

Security forces stormed the radio station and seized 11 rebels, who were armed with automatic rifles, pistols and knives, sources said.

The commando unit in the radio station had said it was speaking for a previously unknown Republican Committee of National Salvation and took eight people hostage, all radio technicians and other employees. Several people

were injured when security forces moved in, firing shots in the air and hurling tear gas canisters, the sources said.

After several hours of confusion, the Government said it was in control. Four hours after the rebels seized Radio Madagascar, announcing a "republican government of public safety", the radio broadcast a communiqué from Lieutenant-Colonel Victor Ramahatra, the Prime Minister, saying: "All institutions of the state are in place."

The rebels said their action was intended to end 15 years of dictatorship by President Ratsiraka and his family. (Reuters, AFP)

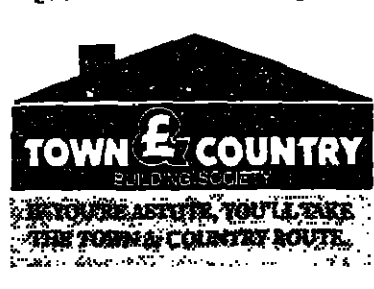
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COMMERCIAL MORTGAGES

Pick of the Week



An ivory netsuke of a South Sea Island drummer, signed Shugetsu, 18th century. 14.5 cm. high. Estimate: £10,000-15,000

CHRISTIE'S

THIS IMPORTANT NETSUKU by the eminent maker Hara Shugetsu (1764-1771) was once in the collection of the connoisseur H.J. Joly. It was illustrated on the cover of his authoritative book on netsuke which was published in 1915 to raise funds for the Red Cross, but subsequently disappeared without trace. It recently surfaced in the collection of the late Ron Summerfield, the Cheltenham antiques dealer whose enormous collection provided the longest auction this century when sold by Christie's last autumn. It is included in the sale of Fine Netsuke, Inro and Pipecases at Christie's, King Street, on Wednesday, 16 May at 7.00 p.m., which will coincide with the International Netsuke Convention at the Park Lane Hotel from 12 to 19 May.

For further information on this and other sales in the next week please call Christie's 24-hour Auction Information Service on (071) 839 9060.

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85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7
164-166 Bath Street, Glasgow

Ronald Butt

Labour fails to convince

The Labour Party is now benefiting greatly from public impatience with the Conservatives and from the urge for a change of some sort. That is why it did so well in the local elections. But it is also clear that the Conservatives retain the votes of many of the disaffected whose decision is determined largely by their dislike of Labour. That is why, although the Tories did badly, they fared much better than the public opinion polls had suggested.

Negative voting, a feature in all elections, is particularly evident at the moment, and could be decisive when the general election comes. If, however, it is now principally of benefit to Labour, in the general election it is likely to be of much greater help to the Tories. For the moment, preoccupied with the public opinion polls, the Government, the voters have been content to draw reassurance from Mr Kinnock's successes in bringing the left to heel, from his acknowledgement of market forces and his new realism on defence. It may be different when the voters turn their minds to thinking in detail about what Labour would do in power.

It is now 24 years since Labour won a majority through its own merit. In both 1964 and 1966 the country was won by what was presented as a new model of social democracy: short of extremism, classless, enterprising, efficient and in favour of planning by agreement, not compulsion. Labour has never enjoyed a real victory since. It was denied a proper majority in both elections in 1974, and Jim Callaghan's government came eventually to depend on the Liberal pact. Although the public had lost confidence in the Tories, it expressed an ingrained distaste for a Labour Party that had swung wildly to the left (with Mr Kinnock's approval at the time). The question now is whether Labour can again win votes in its own right.

John Smith is doing his best. He preaches market forces and recently declared that Labour would not connive at devaluation to allow for British inflation. Nor, he says, would Labour help companies that priced themselves out of the market or unions that priced workers out of jobs. But these are generalities. The question now is how far Labour can address itself to the practical concerns which will determine the votes it must win. That will be the test for the paper to be published later this month which brings up to date last year's policy review, *Meet the Challenge: Make the Change*.

For example, the new document will assert a concern for private investment and a wish for partnership with private industry. But will it unambiguously allay the doubts raised by Bryan Gould last year when he revealed that when the privatized utilities are taken

back into majority public ownership, there might be no money left for dividends, after the claims of investment and price obligations to consumers have been met?

Mr Kinnock tried to explain this away by saying that these shareholders, like any others, would have their claim on dividends after provision for investment and training. But since the only point of Labour's majority public ownership is to give the government the last word on investment and consumer prices, what would "market forces" and shareholders' rights really be worth? It is largely in the privatized utilities that most new small investors have put their money, and it will take more to reassure them than generalities and Mr Gould's transfer from his shadow Trade position to Environment.

Again, there are the doubts over public spending, taxation, and the economy. Mr Smith says that although it is right to borrow for investment it is not right to borrow for Labour's welfare spending. So the money can only come from the taxes of people earning more than £18,000 a year, who include many of the voters Labour needs.

Above all, there is the sour egalitarianism which still pervades Labour thinking, nationally and locally: its humourless commitment to more bureaucratic waste in a ministry for women, more costly, divisive and pointless legislation for "equal opportunities and racial equality" (not to mention "lesbian and gay rights") and a commitment to have nothing but comprehensive education, despite the general recognition of the damage done by the application of this principle regardless of circumstances. A description of the nightmare conditions thus created in Labour's egalitarian masterwork, Holland Park School, was given recently in, of all places, *The Guardian*.

Labour cannot see that the flight by parents who can ill afford it to the independent sector has largely to do with equipment and premises, but with a search for standards of teaching, corporate behaviour, literacy, numeracy and languages which so many inner-city state schools no longer provide. Yet Labour would even abolish the escape route of "opted out" schools and assisted places.

Despite Mr Smith's efforts, the party's devils are not yet cast out. Labour is still far from understanding what it is in its character that makes it so intrinsically distasteful to many potential supporters. Mrs Thatcher, of course, does understand this; hence her detailed attack on Labour policies in her weekend speech to the Scottish Tories. It will not, however, be what she says about Labour, but what Labour reveals of itself, that will make up the voters' minds.

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

The old song tells us to "accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative", and a splendid pupil, Mr Kenneth Baker has proved. For more than a week, his beaming presence has accentuated the positive side of losing 200 local government seats. This was followed on Friday by the announcement of the highest inflation figures for eight years.

"We are heading for the clearer, open sea, where the wind of public opinion can fill our sails!" chorled Mr Baker, wind of another kind filling his own sails.

History is full of bad news. Current affairs seems to admit of none. Perhaps things really have looked up. But my own analysis is simpler: the Ancients just lacked Mr Baker.

Take the Exodus. After a formidable campaign by the Almighty, the only press release we have was that put out by His own press officer — Moses.

First, says this version, the Lord turned the Nile into blood "and the fish that was in the river died; and the river stank". Then "the frogs came up, and covered the land" following which "all the dust of the land became lice".

That was just before "there came a grievous swarm of flies". Rather later, "all the cattle of Egypt died", then came "boils, breaking forth with blains upon man and upon beast". These boils heralded the hail, "and fire, mingled with the hail".

Next came the locusts "and very grievous were they." While Pharaoh wavered, "there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days." Finally — for good measure — the Lord slaughtered all the Egyptian first-born. And off ran the Israelites, through the Red Sea.

So runs the Authorised Version. And we have no other version, for Pharaoh did not have Kenneth Baker as party chairman. Let us, though, try to imagine how Mr Baker would have handled this blip in the fortunes of Egyptian domestic politics.

Following the drowning of the greater part of Pharaoh's army, Mr Baker would have taken the initiative and called a press conference.

"I would like to congratulate

the emergency services for their magnificent work," he would have said. "They have been hard-pressed of late; and, of course, our hearts go out to the relatives of the unfortunate victims."

"But it is a fact that defence spending needed to be trimmed and a reduction in the numbers of our armed forces was always on the cards. This freak storm — for, despite the wider rumours, that is what it was — has simply hastened the inevitable."

"I naturally regret the sharp overnight increase, recently, in cot-deaths, but suggestions that this tragic coincidence has embraced all our first-born are pure media speculation. Likewise, the so-called 'black-out' last week: it is true that we had three days of unusually poor visibility, but this was probably caused by industrial smog arising from the period of sustained economic growth we are undoubtedly entering."

"The locusts were an inconvenience: let us not try to dodge that. But agricultural surpluses were a problem. The locusts have removed them. The hail was also helpful, as was the sharper-than-expected natural cull of our livestock, which preceded it. I must emphasize, there is no possible danger in eating meat from the carcasses of diseased cattle."

"I must say, I am fed up with people whingeing about boils. Personal hygiene is an individual responsibility, and — while I would not go all the way with Mrs. Currie in blaming boils, flies and lice entirely on bathing habits in the North — the health service can only do so much."

"As you know, frogs are an endangered species. I am pleased to announce that, under our new Green policies, there has been an increase of almost spectacular proportions in the population of these valuable bio-indicators."

"Change brings its problems. It would be idle to deny that recent developments have been without inconvenience for some of our people. But the underlying trend is still strongly upwards. I think you will agree, gentlemen, that — under the inspired leadership of Mrs Margaret Nefertiti — things can only go up."

Bernard Levin considers the claim

by historian David Irving that

Hitler's gas chambers did not exist

Last week, a strange and harrowing event took place just outside Berlin. Representatives of Jewish communities from many lands had gathered for this year's World Jewish Congress; to hold it in Berlin must have been for many a fraught and traumatic experience. Yet more painful was their pilgrimage to Wannsee, hard by the city Wannease was the spot where the Final Solution, the extermination of all Europe's Jewry, was decided.

May they rest in peace. But some people are trying to ensure that they will not. A year or two ago, there was something of a stir at the publication in Britain of a broadsheet, entitled *Holocaust News*. It was quite well designed and laid out; the idea was to make people think that it was a newspaper, but there were no further editions. Its theme was mad, stale and disgusting: that the slaughter of the Jews by the Nazis had never happened. True, some had died of natural causes, and others were shot for sabotaging the German war effort, but mass extermination was a fiction, put about by the Jews themselves.

The writers of this stuff were a group of British Nazis (the very phrase sounds lunatic, does it not?) who had taken their material from a pamphlet called *Did Six Million Really Die?* which had appeared a few years previously, written by a British Nazi called Verrall and published under a pseudonym, Richard Harwood. (For Heaven's sake do not confuse him with Ronald Harwood the playwright, who is at least a Jewish boy as ever donned a yarmulka.)

I was urged to denounce these ravings, even to initiate legal proceedings. I did neither; instead, I begged everybody to keep calm, saying that these people, however foul or deranged, were of no consequence, would have no lasting effect, and had no hope of exterminating anybody or anything except their own fleas. Anyway, *Holocaust News* was never heard of again.

Now, however, a new pestilence has made its way into the history

of Nazi murder, and in this case the infection could spread. Mr David Irving, the very peculiar historian (some of his books can be, at least in part, taken seriously), has joined the *Holocaust News*/Richard Harwood camp, and declared that, indeed, there were no gas chambers.

As befits a man of rather more intelligence and sophistication than the riff-raff of the earlier publications, Irving does not simply declare that no Jews were killed by the Nazis; indeed, he boldly admits that some were shot, some starved, some killed in air raids (well, that was the wicked Churchill's doing, of course), some died in epidemics (including Anne Frank), and some froze to death. But there were no gas-chambers at Auschwitz or Treblinka or anywhere else, no mass killing, no Holocaust. Shucks.

It is necessary, I think, to go back a little in the somewhat controversial life of Mr Irving. He first came to general notice in 1970, when he traduced a Second World War naval hero, Captain John Broome, was sued for libel, and ordered to pay £40,000 in damages, £25,000 being punitive damages for the outrageousness of his charges. (Last week I was criticizing massive libel damages; I must say that in this case the figures were fully justified.) Shortly afterwards, he sued for libel an author who had castigated him very strongly, only to throw in his hand and run away from the proceedings on the day before he was due to cross, after three years of procrastinating.

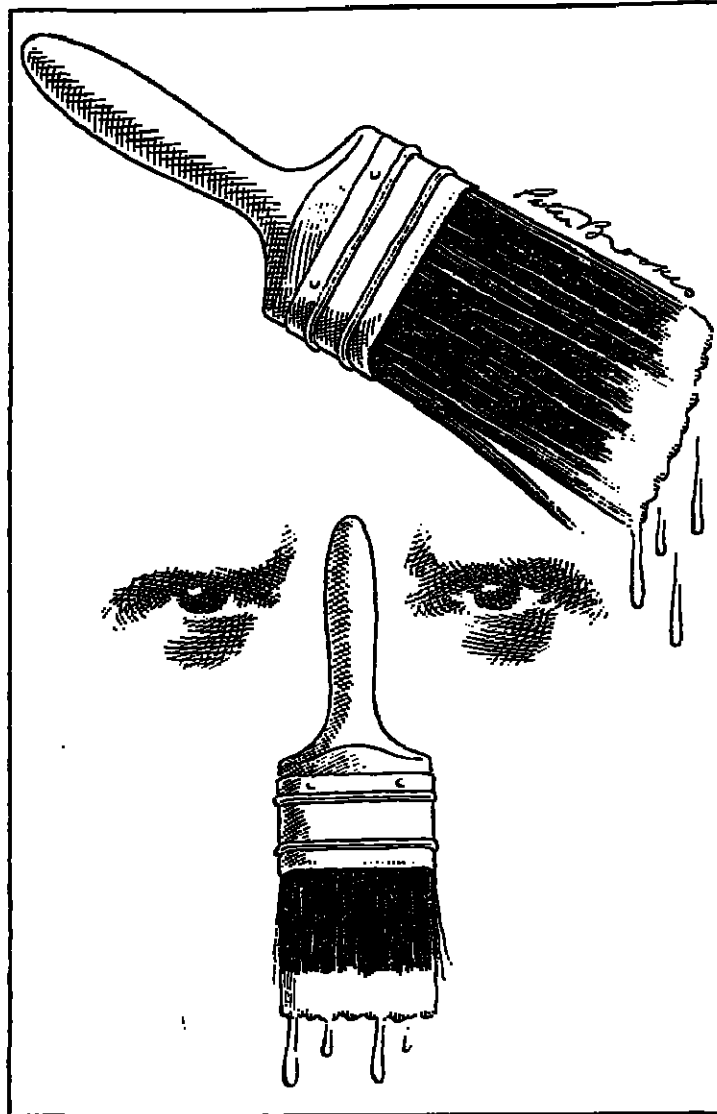
Irving is next found in 1977, writing a sympathetic biography of Hitler — again, it was not simply eulogistic, and indeed he was willing to admit that Hitler was a trifle anti-Semitic (very open and refreshing of you, sir) and that the SS was his creation. Ah, but Hitler had nothing to do with the Final Solution, indeed did not know about it until late in the war. He did, Irving agrees, know about the extermination of physically and mentally handicapped people, but the dear, tender-hearted fellow stopped all that. Summing up,

Irving said that if Hitler were put alongside Roosevelt, Truman and Churchill, he would be hard put to it to say which of them was the most callous.

From then on, Irving's admiration for Hitler has steadily grown, along with his denigration of Churchill, Hitler's most obvious opponent; at one point, he came up with the charge that Churchill had fiddled his income tax, and at another he asserted that he was an alcoholic and, for good measure, a coward. After that, Irving gradually began to slither away from his earlier criticisms of Hitler.

After a time, however, he realized — he is, after all, quite an intelligent man — that there was an insuperable obstacle in the way of his campaign to instal Hitler on a marble column, flanked not by a mere Three Graces but a dozen or more. If Hitler did not order the Holocaust, and found out about it only much later, why did he do nothing to stop the exterminations — as Irving says he did in the case of the handicapped? The answer, in Irving's logic, is that there could never have been any exterminations. Whence his conversion to the *Holocaust News* belief.

As anyone who has followed me this far will guess, Mr Irving, though he has now thrown in his lot with company he earlier avoided, has not lost all his subtlety. Although he insists that the gas chambers were imaginary, he agrees, the open-minded fellow,



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that Jews *did* die in Auschwitz at the hands of Nazis — a total of 74,000, though of even this somewhat reduced number half died of natural causes. Nor has he gone back on his admission that Jews were done away with in other ways. But gas chambers? You must be — er — joking.

Irving is nothing if not consistent. He knew, of course, that Hitler had had no hand in the Holocaust, and he had said so. Now that he knows that there was no Holocaust anyway, he must go further: full rehabilitation is essential, and he tells us that he has "deleted every reference to 'factories of death' from the revised edition of my Hitler biography".

Yet there is still one barrier in his path, and again the careful historian must deal with it. He does not deny that in Germany and those countries which were to fall to the Nazis, there were millions more Jews than there were after the war. If the exterminations were mythical, what happened to those millions? Pause and see whether you can think up an ingenious answer, however mad, to that question; he had to, after all.

Give up? The Jews were "whisked into new homes, lives and identities in the Middle East [sic] Israel", leaving their old, discarded identities behind as "missing persons". Here the *de-dant* Abraham Cohen has become Isaac Goldberg, the former Isaac Goldberg will answer to no name but Abraham Cohen; now a Stein becomes a Stern, and a Stern a Stein; anon Levy transmogrifies into Dreifus and in the twinkling of an eye Dreifus is Levy to the life. ("Did King Solomon call himself Saunders? Did Moses and Aaron call themselves Moss Bros?")

You may think I should have dismissed Irving's lunacies as I did *Holocaust News* and the mad old crone I met in Selfridges' food-store the other day, keening about the wickedness and ubiquity of the Jews to a quivering assistant whom she had pinned against the spring onions. You may be right. But when truly evil nonsense comes in the respectable garb of a historian, it is surely necessary to reveal him for what he is: a man for whom Hitler is something of a hero and almost everything of an innocent, and for whom Auschwitz is a Jewish deception.

David Taylor on Kenneth Clarke's dilemma as he seeks to establish priorities

Delicate surgery of hospital funding

Even if Kenneth Clarke succeeds in extracting extra money from the Treasury for his health service reforms, he will still face tough decisions over where to concentrate NHS funds.

The dilemma was starkly illustrated last Friday. That morning *The Times* published an eloquent letter from a surgeon, Richard Nottley, describing how the closure of the urology ward at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, in the Tory heartland, could destroy the specialist service he and his team have built up over the past 20 years. At the same time the Government announced to the Scottish Conservative conference that Scotland was to receive a new £20 million heart transplant unit.

The logic of Mr Clarke's reforms, which are currently going through Parliament, is to devolve as much money and responsibility as possible to purchasers at district level, or below, from where Mr Nottley, and other district specialists look for their funding.

But there are also powerful arguments for supporting national and regional centres of excellence

for high-cost, low-volume treatments like heart transplants, or neurosurgery. The money for these centres is taken, or "top-sliced", from the total available before it is distributed among the districts, so reducing what is available at local level. Mr Clarke is unlikely to be able to please everyone.

Mr Nottley's district, South West Surrey, was in the past relatively privileged in terms of health funding, but is now clearly under significant financial pressure. Last year, for instance, the increase in its cash budget was only about 4 per cent. Similarly this year the increase in its total resources will be well below the rate of inflation.

This pressure stems in part from the deliberate shift in the balance of NHS resources in favour of other, previously less advantaged areas of England. To a degree, also, the district's problems reflect the cost of success achieved by individuals like Mr Nottley in the traditional NHS system.

If surgeons or physicians based in NHS hospitals attract patients

from other NHS districts, the receiving area has had to pay some of their costs. Unlike the situation in a private hospital, where normally more work brings more resources, excellence in the NHS has in the past tended to bring with it the threat of local cuts.

A key objective for the Working For Patients reforms currently being introduced by the Government is that drawing in more patients from other parts of the NHS, should enable districts to increase their budgets rather than exhaust them. This will help to ensure that units like that run by Mr Nottley (which for the moment is continuing its work with 15 beds in another part of the Royal Surrey, rather than the 24 beds it had in the closed specialist ward) will not end up as losers. But like all other radical treatments, even this part of the Government's plan for a better NHS has its risks and potential complications.

First, it will work only if there is enough money in the NHS to allow the internal market to function appropriately. Roger Freeman, who moved from the

Department of Health to Transport just a week ago, has acknowledged that this year overall NHS cash growth may barely equal that required by inflation alone. Mr Clarke's reported demands to the Treasury for £3 billion extra would amount to little more than 10 per cent of the 1990 health budget.

And second, within the service, health authorities must play their new purchasing role with adequate objectivity. If instead of buying the best available in the NHS internal market they merely buy what is cheapest locally, some NHS specialist services could be exposed to new threats. That is unlikely to apply to units such as Mr Nottley's, which treat relatively common conditions and diseases. But in the high-cost, low-volume fields, the danger is considerable.

The Department of Health is now facing difficult decisions about where to devolve more resources for district-level purchases once the new system is in place, and where to make firm provisions for protecting vulnerable centres of excellence through

continuing the practice of "top-slicing". But consultants in units with regional responsibilities in specialties such as cystic fibrosis or radiology fear that future developments might undermine their existing centres.

Committed individuals like Richard Nottley are clearly right to fight for adequate funding for the services they know their patients need. We should all be grateful to him, and those like him. But some sympathy should also be reserved for those whose less popular "surgical" task is to manage the financial aspects of health care and to divide limited resources between many deserving ends.

Nearly every public opinion survey finds in favour of more spending on the health service. But we have to accept that more cash, whether at national and regional, or local district level, requires other choices — for example, fewer BMWs, and fewer roads to run them on.

The author is Fellow in Health Policy Analysis at the Kings' Fund Institute.

Tightening the purse strings

A Cabinet ministers line up to press John Major for an extra £15 billion in public expenditure next year, Labour's spending plans — or at least those it will disclose — are beginning to seem modest by comparison.

Kenneth Clarke reportedly wants an extra £3 billion to buy off public anxiety about the NHS before the next election. Yet when Robin Cook, the shadow health secretary, last month publicly raised the prospect of increased expenditure on the NHS under a Labour government, he was discreetly warned by the Labour leadership to avoid any pledges to specific expenditure which Conservative Central Office could cost.

Both Cook and John Smith, the shadow chancellor, deny any row, but any potential Labour minister who makes detailed spending commitments is putting himself on a collision course with Smith and Margaret Beckett, the shadow first secretary to the Treasury. Their parsimonious approach almost makes Major look like a spendthrift.

A senior Labour source says: "Smith and Beckett are presiding over Labour's own Star Chamber. They sit at one end of a big table in a small room and the shadow minister sits at the other end pleading his case. They are rigorous and relentless." The caution is understandable, given Labour's expensive promises in the past, which the Tories seized upon with the claim that they could be paid for only by huge tax increases. Labour's much vaunted policy

review, published last year, was carefully filled with Gordon Brown's promise to remove any specific spending commitments. A similar approach has been adopted for Labour's new policy document, to be published next week, which will form the basis of its election manifesto.

Tory Central Office concedes privately that the exercise has worked: it has still not managed to put a figure on Labour's plans, though a team of City economists reckons they will cost £18 billion. But even that does not measure up to the £15 billion increase in 1991 spending programmes which ministers are now said to be seeking — on top of the £12.3 billion already approved. Central Office is reduced to saying of the Labour programme: "It will all end in tears."

Atom bombe

The Royal Society is not the place one would expect to find a cookery demonstration, but its rarified intellectual atmosphere was disturbed last week by the culinary aromas created by Nicholas Kurti, Professor Emeritus of Physics at Oxford. The Romanian-born professor, who is listed in *Who's Who* as "cooking, enjoying its results and judiciously applying physics to the noble art of cookery". Combining his two great loves, he showed the audience of scientists and food industry executives how to produce a soft-boiled egg free of any risk of salmonella, by immersing it in water at 62° for 20 minutes. Then he provided a logic-defying Baked Alaska with hot jam in the centre of an iced meringue. He also



DIARY

exposed as charlatans those restaurateurs who offer fresh pineapple sorbet. The fruit's "unique chemical structure" rendered such a concoction impossible — and he proved it with the aid of complex chemical formulae. But, it seems, the demonstration was a one-off, and the Royal Society has no plans to confer honorary membership on TV cooks Keith Floyd or Fanny Craddock or on our own estimable Frances Bissell.

Just like Mafeking

Government whips in the House of Lords will be greatly relieved tomorrow when the first of the nine recently announced Tory law peers is introduced. Two new Labour peers, Lords Clinton-Davis and Lord Morris of Castle Morris, were introduced on separate days last week, and within hours each found himself tipping the balance as the Government lost two separate amendments to the Community Care Bill by a single vote. To make matters worse, on the second occasion on Thursday, one of the Tory absentees was none other than Lord Denham, the Government chief whip. Al-

though Mrs Thatcher nominated only five new Labour peers to the Tories' nine, the Government lost those two votes simply because the Opposition was quicker off the mark in getting its newly ennobled into the Chamber. Labour now fears that next time Mrs Thatcher will be tempted to stack the odds even more in Tory favour.

Whistle-stop

Not even the Vatican is immune from the World Cup fever now sweeping Italy. The Pope, perhaps intrigued by Diego Maradona's attribution of the controversial goal that put England out of the last World Cup to "the hand of God", has asked for a ticket for the final in Rome's Olympic Stadium in July. Although his presence has not been

Are you sure he's an England supporter?



confirmed, the Vatican is certainly taking the World Cup seriously. There will be a "special event" for fans and players in the Rome basilica, where paintings of the life of Christ will be on show. Clergy in the 12 cities where matches are to be played will

arrange guided tours of churches and masses in various languages (they may also do a brisk trade in hooligan concessions), and an ecumenical service will be held in Sicily for the predominantly Muslim Egyptian team. But the Vatican refuses to be drawn on two questions: given that his native Poland failed to reach the finals, who will the Pope be supporting, and on whose side will "the hand of God" be this time?

● Is this not just a little provocative? Marianne Wiggins, otherwise known as Mrs Salman Rushdie, has given her new collection of short stories the unlikely title *Learning Urdu — Urdu being the native tongue of 90 million Muslims. Like any return to normality in her husband's life, the book has been delayed.*

Cashing in

The demise of apartheid in South Africa is reflected in a decision by the Reserve Bank to remove the unfashionably long-haired portrait of Jan van Riebeeck, leader of the first Dutch settlers at the Cape, from banknotes and replace it with an assortment of wildlife. Carefully avoiding any reference to the changing political landscape, it says the move will prevent counterfeiting and meet the requirements of sophisticated sorting machines. The ANC, meanwhile, is to register its once-banned and now ubiquitous spear-and-shield emblem as a trademark. The purpose, a spokesman says, is "to ensure that merchants cashing in on our popularity do so with our approval" — and at the same time swell ANC coffers.



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DEVOLVE AND RULE

Not since the palmy days of 1955 has the Conservative and Unionist Party achieved more than 50 per cent of the Scottish popular vote. Today, with only 10 out of 72 Scottish seats at Westminster, the strain on the authority and credibility of the Tories is severe. It is increasingly difficult for the party to sustain the concept of government by consent other than by appeals to the concept of Union. The Scottish electorate continues to return a rising number of Labour and Liberal Democrat candidates, and to think nationalist thoughts.

Mrs Thatcher, who is by way of being an English nationalist, travels north several times a year to give her personal attention to this tiresome state of affairs. She had a busy time on Saturday, sailing down the Clyde in a nuclear submarine and dining in Edinburgh Castle with the Scottish Rugby Union. "A woman's work is never done," she confided to the Tory faithful in conference in Aberdeen. She also told them that the Opposition was trying to breathe new life into the "corpse of socialism", which virtually every country in Europe was burying "full fathom five".

Yet certain other countries in Europe are breathing life into a perhaps more potent -ism which she did not mention: small country nationalism. If the unthinkable is now being thought in Lithuania, similar mental processes are at work in the land of Calvin and omelette, the Thatcher family attachment to Gleneagles and Glenlivet notwithstanding. The Conservative Party asserts with justice that it is the party which offers people more say in the running of their own affairs. This sits oddly with its recent treatment of Scotland, both over devolution generally and in the imposition on that country of the poll tax as a somewhat bizarre political experiment.

The Tories last flirted seriously with some form of Scots devolution in the late seventies. Mrs Thatcher herself, a year into her leadership, assured a meeting of prospective candidates at the Perth conference in 1977 that "there will definitely be a Scottish Assembly". The 1979 manifesto merely pledged "discussions" on a future Scots government, a pledge that remains unfulfilled.

The Conservatives were quick to see that the assembly proposals, then also being hawked by a Labour government desperate for minority

party votes, would burden Scotland with an additional layer of bureaucracy and might potentially threaten the Union. Since four out of five Scots vote for parties that support the Union, the Tories reverted to the view that the only sensible posture was to endorse the status quo. This view has the support of much of the business community. The chief executive of the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce told the Aberdeen conference that a devolved Scottish assembly with tax-raising powers would make Scotland the most heavily taxed part of the United Kingdom.

This, however, no longer meets the bill of Scots voters deeply sceptical of the deeds of Westminster even where they stop short of full devolution, let alone independence: a scepticism believed to be shared by Mrs Thatcher's able secretary of state, Mr Malcolm Rifkind. If the tide of public opinion is to be turned, Conservative politicians must shed their intellectual lethargy and come up with some new ideas, or a more sympathetic approach to some old ones.

A starting point could be the oldest of them all, to establish the parliamentary Scottish Grand Committee in Edinburgh, with the Secretary of State answerable to them. There are many problems in this, notable that of a cabinet minister having to answer in Scotland to an overwhelmingly hostile political audience. But that might be no bad thing - as many a colonial administrator has known to his pain but possible benefit. The committee could at least debate, on Scottish soil, a range of functions either delegated or feasible to delegate to St Andrew's House, including the legal system, education, transport and most of local government. Such a committee could even be given discretion over the Scottish budget within overall Treasury cash limits.

Above all, the Grand Committee could turn its mind to the simplification of the structure of local government introduced in Scotland in 1973. The substitution of a system of one-tier, all-purpose councils would slim bureaucracy and increase local accountability. The Government could also win political points north of the border by permitting the Scots once again to take the lead in the reform of local finance - as they were compelled to do in 1989. When it comes to "rethinking the poll tax", Scots MPs of all parties might start the process

PRESIDENT COLLOR'S CRUSADE

President Collor de Mello's decision to cut Brazil's overblown civil service by more than a quarter within one month, abolishing around 360,000 jobs, is as audacious as the assault on hyper-inflation he launched on taking office in March. Nowhere in the world, certainly nowhere in Europe, has 20th-century bureaucratic centralism found so determined an opponent.

The Cabinet meeting at which he delivered the ultimatum to his ministers, and also committed his Government to privatize one state enterprise a month from July, was conducted under the gaze of television cameras. President Collor's strategy for taking the Brazilian economy by storm has relied on popular support to overcome the resistance of congressmen and bureaucrats.

Cutting the state payroll is essential if President Collor is to come near his target of reducing public spending by £12 billion this year. Unless he does, his victory over inflation, which has been reduced to near-zero from 4,854 per cent, will be short-lived. The head of Brazil's central bank contends that while inflation has been knocked down, the referee has only counted to three.

Critics say that the merger of ministries and closure of agencies will paralyse the federal administration just when it is charged with implementing the most radical economic shake-up in Brazil's history. That would carry more weight if it were not that thousands of Brazil's 1.6 million "maharajahs", as the civil service elite is called, owe their jobs to political patronage and are notoriously under-employed.

Those guaranteed job security under the 1988 constitution will not be sacked, but will be put "in reserve", on reduced pay. Since most civil service perks, such as cars and free

houses, are already being withdrawn, Senator Collor hopes the recipients will feel the draught and head for the private sector. But the private sector has been savagely disrupted by the President's game of Russian roulette with the Brazilian monetary system. His crusade against inflation began with an 18-month freeze on some £70 billion in individual and company savings and deposits; new taxes (including a wealth tax); dramatic reductions in government subsidies and liberalization of imports.

These measures have been immensely successful so far, but monetary stability has been purchased at the cost of a sharp recession. Industrial production fell by a quarter in March alone, and the automobile, steel and capital goods industries are operating at a fraction of capacity. Hundreds of thousands of workers in the construction industry have been laid off and, ominously for the President's standing with the "shirtless and barefooted", the informal economy is also hard-hit.

The Government now faces the delicate task of averting long-term recession without reigniting inflation or recreating the corrupt cartel relationship between government and business which President Collor has staked his reputation on breaking. The civil service cuts, and the privatization of Brazil's feather-bedded state enterprises, will need to be as drastic as promised to provide the revenue to inject into productive enterprise.

Brazil's foreign creditors were told this month to wait for their money. They have every interest in being patient. Brazil, with half South America's population and long described as a country with a great tomorrow, might be on the brink of realizing its potential as the power house of a continent.

CELEBRITY GAMBIT

Those drumming fingers of President Gorbachev, as he was booted off Lenin's Mausoleum on May Day, suggest that an organized anti-communist opposition might well be a serious matter. If *glasnost* means anything, the Soviet public will soon learn that one of its darlings, the world chess champion, Mr Gary Kasparov, has given his blessing to a new political party, the Radical Democrats, dedicated to ending the communist ascendancy.

In Britain, second only to the Soviet Union at Mr Kasparov's game, people would scoff at a party which made much of an endorsement by a chess champion. Chess masters are at best seen as unworried, at worst as monomaniacs. Who cares how Mr Nigel Short or Mr Jonathan Speelman cast their votes?

Mr Gorbachev, however, knows that the Russians were crack chess-players long before the Revolution. "And I suppose the ringleader is that Herr Bronstein from the chess room," declared the head waiter at the Cafe Central in Vienna in November 1917. It was. Not only Trotsky, but Lenin and Stalin too revered the game. Chess masters flourished under their patronage - but only when they avoided politics.

Mr Kasparov's intervention was couched in the uncompromising style which (along with the youth, good looks and membership of the Moscow fast set) has helped to make him not merely a chess genius, but a celebrity. He is reported to have told his former ghost-writer, Mr Donald Treford, that Mr Gorbachev "is Mr apparatchik, and will always stay that way". This is fighting talk. Were Mr Kasparov not the one of his most valuable ambassadors to the West, Mr Gorbachev would make him rue his words. The Soviet state still controls the lives of its sportsmen in countless insidious ways.

What are the Soviet Union's millions of chess-players to make of it all? Brought up to believe in a "Soviet school of chess", they came to regard the royal game as virtually Soviet property. Since the rise of Mr Kasparov, however, a question mark has hung over this last, fragile realm of Soviet supremacy. Would the world champion follow the path of emigration chosen by so many Soviet artists and, indeed, chess masters?

If Mr Kasparov does indeed intend to take an active part in Soviet politics, the answer would seem to be no. But this raises another question. Does he hope to become a keeper of the nation's conscience, of the improbable kind that totalitarian systems seem to cast up in their death agonies? In the West celebrities do sometimes enjoy political careers. President Reagan and Miss Glenda Jackson hail from screen and stage, Senator Bill Bradley and Mr Bob Hawke from sport, Herr Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker from nuclear physics. But there seems to be no vacancy in the older democracies for the role which the late Andrei Sakharov created for himself in the Soviet Union, or Mr Vaclav Havel now has in Czechoslovakia.

Just as Sakharov sacrificed both the privileges of an academician and a brilliant career as a physicist for the sake of his beliefs; just as Mr Havel saw none of his plays performed for two decades and has now ascended another kind of stage altogether; so Mr Kasparov must know that his political ambitions put at risk his pre-eminence in the empyrean of the 64 squares. Unless he is prepared for defeats, both in politics and at the board, his brave words will be in vain. As an Armenian and a Jew, Mr Kasparov can have few illusions. But he is an asset to the Soviet opposition.

Employee vetting by police records

From Mr Bill Heberton

Sir, Your report (May 8) on the growth of pre-employment vetting by police records is to be welcomed. However, as a local government research and policy officer with some experience in this area, I feel that the comments of Miss Kate Main of the Association of County Councils' education department, as quoted in your report, provide your readers with a false sense of reassurance.

At present, there is no agreed guidance at local authority level on how selection panels and others should assess the "relevance" or otherwise of someone's criminal background. Therefore, it is perfectly possible for a person with a particular criminal record to be refused a post in one authority and to be offered an almost identical post with a neighbouring authority.

Similarly, there is no agreed local authority-level training available to officers having to make these difficult decisions. Some authorities have invested considerable time and effort into integrating matters raised by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (1974) and reasons for the various exemptions into their recruitment and selection procedures. Others offer no training whatsoever. In addition, there is no agreed appeals procedure for those refused employment based on police record checks.

Given that the Home Office informs us that around 10 per cent of the population has some form of criminal record and that soon there may not be many jobs left in the economy which are not covered by vetting arrangements, it is of great importance that practical concerns are fully and openly addressed. Equally, there needs to be a recognition of the dangers inherent in the murky

moral arena in which vetting now assumes pride of place.

Yours sincerely,
BILL HERBERTON,
660 Radcliffe Road,
Darcy Lever,
Bolton, Lancashire.

From Mr Terry Thomas

Sir, Your report, "Huge growth in vetting by police records", throws a welcome light on a murky system. The Commons Home Affairs Committee report on the subject in April triggered the debate, and asked three main questions: to whom should the records be available? What information should be disclosed? And how can we be sure information relates to the right person?

The committee has, however, missed an equally significant fourth question. How do you use information disclosed to make a proper vetting decision? In other words how do you make sense of past behaviour to try to judge future behaviour? How do you account for concepts of rehabilitation, or the relevance of old offences? How do you account for the passage of time, over many years in some cases?

The Home Affairs Committee may say these are not their questions to answer. In which case, whose questions are they? And is anyone asking them? Are personnel managers or others involved with selection taking any more than a common-sense approach that just follows a prejudicial rule of thumb? If they are not, then a reported million checks a year with no indicators of effectiveness are not much more than an act of faith.

Yours faithfully,
TERRY THOMAS,
Leeds Polytechnic,
Department of Social Studies,
Calverley Street,
Leeds, West Yorkshire.

Abortion limit

From Mr David Martin, MP for Portsmouth South (Conservative)

Sir, Nigel Cameron, Editor of *Ethics and Medicine* (May 2), described the vote in the House of Commons abandoning any upper time limit under the 1929 Infant Life Preservation Act as profoundly disturbing and largely unintended. He believes it should not be allowed to stand.

Many people do not realise that the 1929 Act never applied to Scotland, where the only legislative basis is the 1967 Abortion Act which contains no time limits. There do not seem to have been any developments along the lines feared by Dr Cameron.

Now the law will be the same for all. I have no doubt the same high standards of the medical profession and ethics will apply throughout England and Wales as in Scotland for the last 23 years.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MARTIN,
House of Commons.

Museum cuts

From Professor D. T. Donovan

Sir, The Natural History Museum's new corporate plan is wholly illogical. What the trustees and management do not seem to realise is that the very business of curating its collections and properly identifying and cataloguing them is the major skill in which the museum is unrivalled, and is the only "marketable expertise" which the museum can offer.

This sometimes (but not always) unexciting "routine" work is the bedrock of all research in biology. Although the staff have a wide range of ancillary skills, the museum cannot transform itself overnight into a consultancy on ecology or some other temporarily fashionable field. Its existing skills are the only ones that it can legitimately offer. It should cherish them carefully during the present difficult times.

Yours faithfully,
D. T. DONOVAN,
52 Willow Road, NW3.

Wannsee ceremony

From Mr Michael May

Sir, We are both astonished and insulted at the suggestion made in your dispatch from West Berlin that Elie Wiesel, who penned the moving words for the World Jewish Congress ceremony at the Wannsee villa, had absented himself for political reasons (early editions, May 9).

What the report suggests is a harmful distortion in view of Mr Wiesel's long and close relationship with the WJC. Indeed, Mr Wiesel specifically drafted the poignant tribute read by WJC delegates at the moving ceremony

at the explicit request of WJC President Edgar M. Bronfman.

Mr Wiesel had made it clear, in news accounts which appeared one week earlier, that he was unable to attend because of prior scheduling commitments, and that he was demonstrating his solidarity with the World Jewish Congress in composing the powerful lines to be read on the occasion of the May 8 commemoration.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL MAY,
(Director, UK Office),
World Jewish Congress,
11 Hertford Street, W1,
May 10.

President Havel's play

From the Chairman of Westminster Productions Ltd.

Sir, Your Diarist (May 3) suggested that the Westminster production of the Havel play, *Temptation*, made it out to be an attack on the present Government. We are being bombarded with letters asking, is this a political play attacking the present Government?

The answer is definitely not. It is a play in which Havel deals in a very dramatic and a very humorous way with the perils of com-

promise with evil. It has been set in London because Havel's concern has been equally for the dangers of compromise in the West as under dictatorship.

It is also a disservice to President Havel to suggest that he may be embarrassed when he comes to London.

Yours sincerely,
HUGH S. WILLIAMS,
(Producer, *Temptation*),
Chairman,
Westminster Productions Ltd.,
Westminster Theatre,
Beebe Street, SW1,
May 11.

The Lennon tribute

From Mr Dave Edmunds

Sir, I feel I must comment on Michael Gray's cynical review (May 7) of the John Lennon tribute. The prime motivation of everybody involved in the event was to pay tribute to, and help preserve the name and music of John Lennon, and to generate funds for the Spirit Foundation, which he and Yoko had established two years before his death.

The money from the concert, together with world-wide television sales, will be used for environmental projects and to set up a John Lennon scholarship. The money from the UK will be administered by Liverpool University.

Michael Gray attacked the integrity of the charity, the fund-raisers, the musicians, the city and the people of Liverpool; the talent and sincerity of the artists, and, it seems, anything else that moved. In my view he reinforces the negative attitude and the bewildering desire of the British to put themselves down.

As I stood with the other artists on stage at the end of the evening, the 70-piece orchestra playing behind us, and the 20,000 Liverpoolians all singing "Imagine" in front, I can proudly say I have never been more moved in my

life. When the concert is shown around the world on the next anniversary of John's birth, it will become apparent how unnecessarily vicious this "review" was. Anyone who saw the broadcast will already know, it was not a "musical disaster".

The world does not need Mr Gray to tell it what John Lennon would or would not have liked.

Shame on him.

Yours etc.,
DAVE EDMUNDS (Musical Director, "The Lennon Tribute"),
Polar Union,
119-121 Freston Road, W11,
May 9.

From Mr Alan G. Carr

Sir, Michael's Gray's article on the John Lennon concert, which I attended, appeared to seek to cause the maximum insult possible to anyone involved in the event (not to mention the entire population of the city of Liverpool).

Stepping up the 'poverty trickle'

From Mr Danny Levine

Sir, Your second leader of May 8 ("The poverty trickle") helps to focus attention on the fact that the poorest have not shared - relatively or absolutely - in the prosperity of the majority of this country's citizens over the last few years. That comes as no surprise to those of us who provide services all year round to people in acute need.

The problem, however, goes deeper than your leader suggests. The "trickle-down" theory is not proven domestically or internationally. The Government have been told that fact but have chosen not to listen. Instead, those campaigning against poverty are dismissed as "the shrill voice of vested interests".

Nor are some other Government measures helping. The move to housing benefit - away from board and lodging payments - to cover housing costs, instituted last year, is actually creating more hardship. Why? Because unlike board and lodging rates, housing benefit does not cover all housing costs; thus people have to find the cost of heating and lighting from income support.

Dependent on age that means 15-20 per cent or more of their disposable income. By contrast, my own costs for heat and light are just 5.5 per cent of my disposable income. Again, these facts were known before the measures were introduced, but the principle of switching people with special needs to housing benefit was judged more important than the negative consequences. Nor did the usual "winners and losers" argument apply, because in that case everybody was a loser.

"Targeting" those in greatest need is in danger of being represented as the way of dealing with the problem; but beware that it does not become another "trickle-down" myth. Targeting without agreement across a range of opinion is just a party political tool. It is not an absolute measure of need between competing demands.

Yours faithfully,
DANNY LEVINE (Director),
North West London Housing Association Ltd.,
3rd Floor,
293-299 Kentish Town Road, NW5,
May 9.

From Mrs Hermione Parker

Sir, Those "in the know" have long been aware that the Government's figures on living standards over-estimate the gains made since 1979 by poor families receiving rent and rate rebates. Between 1979 and 1983 it was Government policy to increase council-house rents and rates much faster than the rate of inflation.

Rents went up by 130 per cent (on average) and rates by 155 per cent. These increases were stoutly

defended by Government ministers on the grounds that low-income families would qualify for rent and rate rebates. Yet now the official estimates of living-standard changes since 1979 include the rebates as part of net income, without mentioning the hugely increased rents and rates paid out.

Nor is that the end of the story. In April, 1988, as part of the social security reforms inaugurated by Norman Fowler, there were massive cuts in housing benefit, on the grounds that "too many people" were dependent on State welfare (sic). Today, as a result of further massive rent increases, as well as poll tax, history seems set to repeat itself. Once again Government ministers defend the new charges on the grounds that those least able to pay can claim rebates.

More people will qualify for rent rebates and more (over two million more) will qualify for the new community charge benefit. Of those who claim, none will be "better off" in the usual meaning of the word, although they will lose less than they otherwise would.

Unless the Department of Social Security changes its presentation of the figures these changes will be translated into further "rising living standards" at the bottom of the income distribution in a few years' time.

Yours faithfully,
HERMIONE PARKER,
Nettlefield,
Pirbright,
Woking, Surrey,
May 8.

From Mr Ian Flintoff

Sir, It is invidious of David Willets ("The myth of the ever-poorer poor", May 9) to attempt to refute this week's statistics on poverty in Britain by choosing figures which exclude housing costs.

Over the period in question, 1981-85, housing and accommodation costs in most parts of the country rose steeply, and this effect is instrumental in both the real deterioration in the decline of living standards for the worst-off 10 per cent as well as the increase in homelessness which David Willets acknowledges elsewhere in his article.

It would be wiser, and more honourable, for all concerned to admit that a considerable number of British citizens were, and are, enduring relatively deteriorating living conditions (relative, that is to others) and that the only moral course open to government of any political complexion is to do something rapidly and effectively about it.

Yours faithfully,
IAN FLINTOFF,
22 Chaldon Road,
Fulham, SW6,
May 9.

Saving Spitalfields

From the Chairman of the Spitalfields Historic Buildings Trust

Sir, It is reassuring to read (May 4) that Mr Brian Cheetham, Chief Executive of the Spitalfields Development Group, intends to strive for architectural quality in his proposals for the site of the present fruit and vegetable market.

Since the Royal Fine Art Commission has expressed "profound consternation" at his company's current scheme, we look forward to seeing an entirely fresh solution from a major architect with experience of the special problems which arise from the juxtaposition of modern office accommodation and small-scale historic buildings.

Those of us who have spent the last dozen years or so protecting and restoring what is left of Georgian Spitalfields share your astonishment. Sir (leading article, April 30), that the secretary of state should so far have failed to call in for wider scrutiny a scheme that so profoundly affects the largest surviving concentration of early 18th-century buildings in London.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCIS CARNWATH,
Chairman,
Spitalfields Historic Buildings Trust,
17 Princes Street, E1,
May 10.

Postgraduate income

From Ms Cecilia Busby

Sir, Under new rules which will come in in December, 1990, full-time students will no longer be eligible for housing benefit. While for undergraduates this will supposedly be offset by the advantage of interest-free loans and the higher wage they will command at the end of their course, what about postgraduates, to whom the law will also apply?

Any graduate deciding to do a PhD is already accepting a massive cut in income: the level of the grant is £3,725 for 1990-91, probably less than half what their contemporaries are earning. There is no compensating rise in income once they have completed their PhD, as on average graduates without PhDs are higher earners. In addition, they are ineligible for Government loans. Who is going to contemplate research under these conditions?

What possible justification can the Government give for this policy? Besides creating a drastic shortage of researchers in the future, it will also involve taking a complete sector of the population outside the welfare system.

Yours faithfully,
CECILIA BUSBY,
14 Melton Road, SW17,
May 4.

A matter of taste

From the Reverend J. D. A. Linn

Sir, I see that my brother has been adding to the discussion on national breakfasts (May 7). His remarks should be treated with reserve. A quarter of a century ago, he and a group of friends gathered every Sunday morning in the town of Sernegung, in Second Division of Borneo, for a post-Communist "English breakfast". It was organised by an American Peace Corps member, and all shared in the preparation.

Breakfast began with sherry. One week it was my brother's task to grill a pound of beef sausages. This he did en bloc, having forgotten to remove the Cellophane wrapping beforehand. Naturally enough, he was the only member of the party to eat them. As he was, at the time, a Royal Marine, I have always felt that this episode says something about the intestinal fortitude of that redoubtable corps - and about his right to comment on matters culinary.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
ALAN LINN,
The Rectory,
Fincham,
Kings Lynn, Norfolk,
May 7.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number (071) 782 5046.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 12: The Prince Edward, Chairman of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, this afternoon attended a Garden Party at Peterhouse College, Cambridge.

The Princess Royal attended the Commissioning Ceremony of HMS Talent at Barrow-in-Furness and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Cumbria (Sir Charles Graham, Bt).

Mrs Andrew Feilden was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
May 13: The Duke of Gloucester this morning arrived at

Heathrow Airport at the conclusion of his visit to Canada and the United States of America.

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
May 12: The Duke of Kent, President of the Football Association, accompanied by The Duchess of Kent, this afternoon attended the Final of the Football Association's Challenge Cup Competition at Wembley Stadium.

Mrs Alan Henderson and Mr Andrew Palmer were in attendance.

Birthdays today

Miss Francesca Annis, actress, 45; Dr Hastings Banda, life President of Malawi, 85; Mr Roy Blyth, yachtman, 50; Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Buchanan, 65; Mr Denis Canham, 65; Sir Eric Chadee, former deputy managing director, International Thomson Organisation, 82; Sir Owen Green, chairman, I.R.C., 65; Lord McAlpine of West Green, 48; Miss Sian Phillips, actress, 56; Sir Peregrine Rhodes, diplomat, 65; Sir Adam Ridley, executive director, Hambros Bank, 48; Mr Leslie Sharp, chief constable, Cumbria, 54; Mrs Patricia Turner, trades unionist, 63.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Thomas Gainsborough, Sudbury, Suffolk, 1727; George Barrington, pick-pocket and writer, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, 1755; Robert Owen, social reformer, New Lanark, Fife, 1771; Sir Squire Bancroft, actor-manager, Rotherhithe, 1841; Otto Klemperer, conductor, Breslau, Germany, 1885.

DEATHS: Matthew Gregory Lewis ('Monk Lewis'), Gothic novelist, at sea, 1818; August Schlegel, dramatist, Stockholm, 1912; Edmund Allenby, 1st Viscount Allenby, field marshal, Southwell, Nottinghamshire, 1936; Sir William Dobell, painter, 1970.

The victory of the English barons over Henry III at the battle of Lewes, 1264.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh will attend a British Horse Society gala evening in Uxbridge at 7.30.

The Princess Royal, as President of the Save the Children Fund, will visit Durham County Hall at 10.10 to review the partnership between the fund, the Probation Service and Social Services. She will open the new building for Sedgfield Magistrates' Court and Probation Services, Newton Aycliffe, at 3.00; and will attend the Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire's feast at Cutlers' Hall, Sheffield, at 7.00.

The Duchess of Kent, as Patron of the twenty-first anniversary year of the Westminster Palace Foundation, will attend the annual luncheon at the London Tara Hotel at 12.40.

Marriages

Mr N.Y.J. Kirkpatrick and Miss E. Hon Joanna FitzRoy Newgate.

Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester attended the marriage on Saturday at the Collegiate Church of Saint Mary, Warwick, of Mr and Mrs John Kirkpatrick, of Horn Park, Beaconsfield, Dorset, to the Hon Joanna FitzRoy Newgate, daughter of Viscountess and Viscountess Devon of Temple House, Arbury, Nuneaton, Warwickshire. The Bishop of Warwick officiated, assisted by the Rev Stephen Little.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Emma Wigan, Lucy Kirkpatrick, Francesca Rabi, Laura Winton, the Hon James Finch-Knightley, George Featherstonhaugh, and John Kemington-Hobbs. Mr Christopher Brooks was best man.

A reception was held in Arbury and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr P.G. Bailey and Miss G.A. White.
The marriage took place on Saturday at St. Swithun's, Combe, near Newbury, of Mr Philip Bailey, younger son of Mr Adrian Bailey, of London, W2, and of Lady Mary Russell, of Combe Manor, Combe, Wiltshire. The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Helen Lyford-Davis. Lt Commander John Wootton was best man.

A reception was held at Combe Manor and the honeymoon will be spent in Indonesia.

Mr M.W.R. Bowden and Dr C.L. Davis.
The marriage took place on Saturday, April 28, at St Peter's Church, Oadby, between Mark Bowden, elder son of Captain and Mrs R. Bowden, of Titchfield, Hampshire, and Carol Davis, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs J.L. Davis, of Oadby, Leicestershire. The Rev David Clark officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Helen Lyford-Davis. Lt Commander John Wootton was best man.

The Hon R.T.G. Edwards and Miss O.G. Brown.
The marriage took place on Saturday at St Margaret's, Westminster Abbey, of the Hon Rupert Edwards, only son of Lord and Lady Crichtonwell, to Miss Olivia Brown, younger

Luncheon

English-Speaking Union
Mr David Hicks, Director-General of the English-Speaking Union, received the guests at a luncheon held on Saturday at the Café Royal to mark the national final of the union's public speaking competition for schools. Mr Matthew Carrington, MP, Mr Ian Griffiths, Mr David Rintoul and Mrs Sheila Wiltshire were among the guests.

Reception

HM Government
Mr Malcolm Rifkind, QC, Secretary of State for Scotland was host on Saturday at a reception given by Her Majesty's Government in Edinburgh Castle to mark the success of the Scottish Rugby Union Team in the 1989/90 International Season.

Thanksgiving services

Air Vice-Marshal Basil Lock
Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Air Vice-Marshal Basil Lock will be held on Thursday, May 31, 1990, at noon, in St Clement Dances, Gilbert Williams.

A Thanksgiving Service for the life of the architect, Gilbert Williams will be held at St James's Church, Piccadilly, London, W1, on Wednesday, May 23, at noon.

Brigadier Kenneth Hargreaves

The Marquess of Normanby was represented at the memorial service for Brigadier Kenneth Hargreaves by Mr P. Womersley.

Lord Morris of Castle Morris

The life barony conferred upon Mr Brian Robert Morris has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Morris of Castle Morris, of St Dogmaels in the County of Dyfed.

Lord Clinton-Davies

The life barony conferred upon Mr Stanley Clinton-Davies has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Clinton-Davies, of Hackney in the London Borough of Hackney.

OBITUARIES

CHARLES FARRELL

Charles Farrell, popular American film actor of the Twenties, has died aged 89 in Palm Springs. He was born in 1901.



Seventh Heaven, one of the last of the big silent picture productions. The movie brought Miss Gwyneth Paltrow to fame, while she went on to further

THE patrician features of Charles Farrell placed him among the most photogenic of movieland's early stars and his business acumen took him to the barren desert east of Los Angeles, where he built an exclusive tennis club.

He and Janet Glynor, who died in 1984, were America's most famous film couple in the late Twenties and early Thirties, when motion pictures first found a voice, but his popularity declined when his Boston accent brought him into disfavour with the old Fox Studios' front office. Tired, he said years later, of trying to portray James Cagney with an accent more like James Mason's, he left films and with the actor Ralph Bellamy built two tennis courts on scrub land.

The Charles Farrell Racquet Club became not only the basis for his own fortune but for a Fifties television series that starred Farrell as its owner, dealing with the minor travails of family and staff.

Born in Onset Bay, Massachusetts, Farrell had graduated from Boston University, intending to become a psychologist. However, on a visit to California his classic features and athletic build helped him to a minor role in the 1923 Cecil B. de Mille epic *The Ten Commandments*. Four more years of bit parts in forgotten films went by before he was cast opposite Miss Gwynor in

"America's favourite love birds", as they were called, made 11 other films including *Street Angel*, *Lucky Star* and *The Man Who Came Back*, before their final teaming in 1934 in *Change of Heart*. Thereafter Farrell's star began to wane in *Fighting Youth* and *Flight to Fame*, while she went on to further

triumph in such epics as the 1937 *A Star Is Born*.

In the interim he had discovered Palm Springs. Besides founding his club he bought nearby land at \$30 per acre, selling it quickly for \$500 as the desert boomed. He sold the racquet club in 1959 for a reported \$1.2 million; in the meantime he had become one of Palm Springs's most famous residents, and was also its mayor from 1947 to 1955.

By then he had also re-established himself as an actor, this time on television. His hair was now grey, as was the pencil-thin moustache that remained his insignia. Nevertheless the combination, coupled with his imperious New England stance, made him perfect for the role as Vernon Albright, father of the mysterious Gale Storm in the successful television series *My Little Margie*.

Later, in *The Charlie Farrell Show* he portrayed himself in an almost autobiographical series. After that he returned permanently to the desert property he had purchased years before. Palm Springs was even a city, living quietly with his wife, the actress Virginia Valli, who died in 1969.

Eventually time caught up with him and he spent much time in front of a television set on which was a photo of himself and Miss Gwynor, most of the friends who helped him develop the desert having died years before. But, all in all, as he confided in a 1977 interview, "I had a hell of a career and a hell of a good life."

JOHN ORMOND

John Ormond, poet and filmmaker, died aged 67 in Cardiff on May 4. He was born in Dunvant, near Swansea, on April 3, 1923.

THE blitzing of Swansea in 1941 indirectly made John Ormond a poet. Transferred from the bomb-disrupted Swansea Grammar School, and having now to catch a bus, he spotted an anthology of 20th century poetry in a shop window and used his lunch money to buy it. Back home in the mining village of Dunvant he read Wilfred Owen's "Exposure" and Dylan Thomas's "The Force that Through the Green Fuse Drives the Flower".

His first published work, under his full name of John Ormond Thomas, in the volume *Imitations* (1943), reveals the thralldom to Dylan Thomas that was to hold a

generation of Welsh poets in its grip. John Ormond soon took Vernon Watkins's advice to wait until his poetic voice was more assured. A quarter of a century passed before the volume *Requiem and Celebration* appeared in 1969.

In the intervening years John Ormond had made two different, equally successful careers. The first was as a journalist. After a degree in English and Philosophy at University College, Swansea, he moved from local papers in Essex to Tom Hopkinson's *Picture Post*, appointed solely on the basis of poems submitted. He had been a conscientious objector during the war and he maintained a radical political stance throughout his life.

From 1949 to 1955 he was a sub-editor on the *South Wales Evening Post* in Swansea and then transferred to television

in Cardiff. There he helped establish a news service for the BBC in Wales and from 1957 until his retirement in 1984 was a BBC documentary filmmaker. He had nursed early ambitions to paint, and his painterly eye was now turned to superb effect in the prize-winning films he made on the poets R. S. Thomas, Alun Lewis and Dylan Thomas, as well as on the painters who became his friends - Graham Sutherland, Kyffin Williams and Cori Richards. Camera-men still testify with awe to his insistence on lining up every single shot himself.

John Ormond's capacity for friendship was just one aspect of a singularly warm personality. He could be sharp in observation of those who were not as meticulous in craftsmanship as himself. His own instincts were rooted in that Dunvant childhood to

which his poetry bore witness from the 1960s. When his second volume, *Definition of a Waterfall*, appeared in 1973, its versatility of style and of subject placed him in the front rank of his Welsh contemporaries. The Cheltenham Award for English Poetry (1975), publication in the Penguin Modern Poets series (27) and the Poetry Wales Press edition of his *Selected Poems* (1987) brought innumerable invitations to read and lecture, at home and abroad.

Increasing ill-health kept him to well-beaten paths in Cardiff where he lived with his regulars and harpists would occasionally be startled to hear him rap out love poetry and satirical verse between rounds of drinks.

He leaves a widow, Glenys, two daughters and a son.

Danah Zohar

Finding God within physics

At a recent series of meetings on religious doubt organized by an Oxford vicar, a young woman confessed that she could no longer believe anything, nor see any reason to believe in a moral way, because science had proven that God does not exist. Her conclusion, though simplistic, reflects a widespread view that modern science is at odds with religious belief.

Until the 17th century, there was little distinction between priests and scholars, and little scientific challenge to the physics or the cosmology of the Church or the articles of faith underpinned by them. But with the explosion of modern science, this challenge became impossible to ignore.

Slowly, the story of the creation, the notion of human uniqueness, the idea of an earth-centred universe and hence one to which a transcendent God would devote any special attention, have all become problematical. So too have the credibility of the miracles and the bodily Resurrection.

Cartesian philosophy emphasized the sharp division between mind and body and paved the way for Newton's entirely materialistic vision of the physical world. The living cosmos of Greek and medieval times, a cosmos filled with purpose and intelligence and driven by the love of God for the benefit of man, became a dead, clockwork machine. Human consciousness, the whole rich world of human purpose and aspiration, had no place in Newton's design, nor in the rigidly deterministic biology of Darwin later inspired by it. We seemed aliens in an alien world.

One central motivating force behind any religious perception is the attempt to form a coherent picture of the world and of one's own place within it. The inability of classical physics to account for consciousness, or to assign it any meaningful role, led to religious despair for those who took seriously the new scientific world view. At that deep level, science does challenge the very foundations of belief, more fundamentally than any questions raised about specific elements of Christian doctrine.

But Newton's physics is no longer at the cutting edge of physical thinking. The whole mechanistic world view to which it gave rise is scientifically out of date. In its place we have the "new physics", relativity theory and quantum theory. Of the two, quantum theory offers the best hope of transforming our perception of ourselves, leading to a new religious vision.

Quantum physics is radically different from classical physics. It necessarily raises the question of what role consciousness plays in the physical world, because in the quantum laboratory there is no sharp distinction between the observer and the observed. Observers (conscious beings), or the machines they devise, make things happen. Their attention influences the outcome of experiments. In the jargon of physicists, "they make reality happen."

More important still, quantum physics may help us to understand the nature of consciousness itself, and how our minds relate to the rest of reality. This is because quantum events, like those of consciousness, are essentially holistic. Any two quantum particles, once linked, remain so bound up with each other that they behave as one even if widely separated. This special quantum relationship is known as "non-locality."

Some physicists now suggest that a quantum-style relationship among constituents of the brain can account for the special unity of consciousness. That is, for our ability to unite the billions of sensory data that bombard the brain each second into a single, coherent experience. No previous physics could explain this.

Earlier attempts to explain consciousness in terms of physics have merely reduced the human spirit to the level of the material. Human beings are nothing but "mind machines," as Oxford's Professor of Physiology has put it. But a quantum view of consciousness is more likely to raise matter, or at least the forces which bind matter together, to the level of spirit.

All the forces in the universe - gravitational, electro-magnetic and nuclear - have a quantum structure. That is, they rely upon those quantum-style relationships in which many apparently separate particles actually behave as one, much as the many voices in a choir sound like one voice.

SCIENCE REPORT

Biologists puzzled by transsexual mice

AMERICAN researchers have produced adult female mice lacking ovaries by giving them a human gene for "maleness".

In last week's issue of *Nature* (vol 345, pp 167-170), Richard R. Behringer, from the University of Pennsylvania, and colleagues describe these curiosities, which may give biologists a better understanding of how a developing embryo grows up to be male or female.

The sex of a mouse depends on the chromosomes that come together at fertilization (Science Report, December 21 1989). But until about twelve days later

both males and females develop rudimentary sex organs (which become either the testes or ovaries) and two sets of potential reproductive tracts. One, the Wolffian duct, can form the rest of the male sexual apparatus. The Mullerian duct, on the other hand, can give rise to female structures.

At this stage the genes for "maleness" - if present, come into play. The testes begin to secrete two types of hormone - testosterone and Mullerian Inhibiting Substance (MIS). The first of these stimulates the male structures to grow, whilst MIS

demolishes the Mullerian duct. Without the "maleness" genes, the opposite process occurs.

Dr Behringer and colleagues created a strain of mice carrying the human gene for MIS, which grew up with large amounts of MIS in their blood. As expected, females were sterile and lacked most of the female reproductive structures.

Not surprisingly, most of the male mice developed as "normal" males. But some males with extremely large amounts of MIS in their blood showed inkings of "femaleness".

Professor Anne McLaren, from the Medical Research Council's Mammalian Development Unit at University College, London, is surprised by the new findings. Commenting in *Nature*, she says that the lack of ovaries in the female mice was unexpected. Ovaries do not develop from the Mullerian duct; their absence shows that MIS must have a greater role in sexual development than was originally thought. The strange effects of an "overdose" of MIS in males also shows that its role is not a simple one.

Danah Zohar, author of *The Quantum Self* (Bloomsbury, £14.95) is speaking at an open seminar on Saturday May 19, 10.30-4 pm, at St Mary's Lutheran Church, Sandwich Street, London WC1.

Peter Tallack

SIR MARK TENNANT

Sir Mark Tennant, KCMG, CB, a former senior Civil Servant, has died aged 78. He was born on December 26, 1911.

ENTERING the Civil Service in 1935 after Marlborough and New College, Oxford, Mark Dalcour Tennant had his early years at the Ministry of Labour disrupted by the war, in which he served with the Royal Artillery. But his qualities were recognized after the war in his appointment as head of the International Department.

For five years, he was the linchpin of the UK delegation to the International Labour Conference at Geneva. He brought to this job a quick mind, administrative and linguistic skills and an urbane diplomacy, at a time when the ILO was still an important UN agency with tricky international nuances and (because of its tripartite delegate structure: of governments, employers and workers) its own internal complexities.

In 1960, Lord Monckton, heading a commission to look into the problems of the Central African Federation,

selected Tennant as his Secretary-General; and the contribution Tennant made and the experience he gained in that task led in 1962 to his appointment as Secretary of the Central African Office, when Rab Butler somewhat hesitantly assumed that highly charged political responsibility.

In his memoirs, Lord Butler gave high praise to Tennant for his remarkable capacity for work and the quality of the briefing and advice which he supplied throughout the difficult negotiations leading up to the Victoria Falls Conference in the summer of 1963.

After playing the central part in resolving the problems of Central Africa at the time - the orderly dissolution of the Federation and the establishment of two new states in Malawi and Zambia - Tennant applied his talents in the less lighted areas of home administration, in the Treasury, the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works and, finally, the Department of Environment.

His wife, Clare, survives him.

CARDINAL TOMÁS Ó FIAICH

The Most Reverend Desmond Connell, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin and Primate of Ireland, writes:

THE late Cardinal Tomás Ó Fiaich will be remembered by all who knew him as a man of great warmth. In meeting him one was sure that there were no complications to be overcome: his friendliness had a direct simplicity that made personal exchange easy and sincere. Perhaps at first one might find the South Armagh accent somewhat unconventional, but one soon realized the significance of its unaffected authenticity: he was a man without sham or pretensions, and entirely at home with his origins.

Because he was at home with himself he could bring others of goodwill to feel that they were at home with him, even when differences might have kept them apart. Here we have the key to what will surely be regarded as the Cardinal's greatest achievement: the advance in ecumenical relations that marked his period of office. Northern Ireland, in particular, stands greatly in his debt.

The special qualities of the Cardinal's life were the fruit of the deep roots of his Catholic

faith and Irish culture, which he cultivated with religious devotion and scholarly dedication. In his eyes the two were undivided, because nobody better appreciated the immense contribution of the Irish Church to the cultural inheritance of Europe. The riches of the centuries-old traditions of his people at home could be traced in their influence abroad as far as the monastery of Kiev.

My personal memories of Cardinal Ó Fiaich take me back over 40 years to the time when we lived as students together at the Irish College in Louvain. Together we visited some of the great Irish monastic sites in Switzerland, Austria and Germany. On the day of my consecration as Archbishop of Dublin I expressed the following hope:

Ever since we set out together, so long ago, to retrace the footsteps of the Irish saints on the Continent of Europe, we have been good friends. May we travel together now, in the footsteps of the saints who stayed at home, for the good of the flock committed to our care. It is my great sadness today that I must continue on my path without the support and understanding of so good a friend.

Forthcoming marriages

Signor R.M.A. Amunziate and Miss U.A. Newton.
The engagement is announced between Signor Amunziate, son of Signor and Signora Francesco Amunziate, of Naples, and Ursula Ann, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Newton, of Mayfield, Sussex.

Mr M.G. Atkinson and Miss S.E. Kinnaird.
The engagement is announced between Mr Atkinson, only son of Mr J.E.M. Atkinson and the late Mrs Atkinson, of 56 Claremont, Alton, Cheshire, and Sarah Elizabeth, second daughter of Mr and Mrs J.A.L. Kinnaird, of Capelade, Killin, County Down.

Mr J.M. Conboy and Dr C.H.G. Pearson.
The engagement is announced between Mr Conboy, son of Mr and Mrs T.M. Conboy, of Ellesmere Port, South Wirral, and Clare Helen Garcenciere, daughter of Mr and Mrs C.H.G. Pearson, of Kings Somborne, Hampshire.

Mr D.M.J. Conits and Miss K.L. Vickers.
The engagement is announced between Mr Conits, son of Mr and Mrs Ian Conits, of Norwich, Norfolk, and Katherine, youngest daughter of Mrs F. Elliott, and stepdaughter of Mr H. Elliott, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire.

Mr B.R. Curry, RM and Miss T.A. Baylis.
The engagement is announced between Mr Curry, of Co. Down, N. Ireland, and Tracy, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs J.D. Baylis, of Mount Manganni, New Zealand.

Mr N.P. Evelyn and Mrs S.J. Woolf.
The engagement is announced and the marriage will shortly take place between Mr Nicholas Evelyn and Mrs Sarah Woolf.

Mr P.A. Goodson and Miss L.M. Tyntis.
The engagement is announced between Mr Goodson, eldest son of Mr and Mrs R.C. Curry, of Co. Down, N. Ireland, and Tracy, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs J.D. Baylis, of Mount Manganni, New Zealand.

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Mr P.A. Harvey and Miss L.R. Ashley.
The engagement is announced between Mr Harvey, eldest son of Mr and Mrs S.W. Harvey, of Chesham, Hertfordshire, and Lisa, only daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Ashley, of Goffs Oak, Hertfordshire.

Mr G.F. Hopkins and Miss B.E. McLaren.
The engagement is announced between Mr Hopkins, son of the late Mr F. Hopkins and of Mrs M. Hopkins, of Pontefract, West Yorkshire, and Belinda Elizabeth, elder daughter of Mr D.W. McLaren, of Surbiton, Surrey, and Mrs E.B. Del Mar, of Chigwell, London.

Mr S.S.F. Noble and Sonnet B. Beck Ulton.
The engagement is announced between Mr Noble, son of Mr Peter Noble, London, and Mrs Elizabeth Noble, London, and Patricia, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.D. Beck, of Mexico City, formerly of Lima, Peru.

Mr J.F. la F. Nowell and Miss A.M. Mussen.
The engagement is announced between Mr Nowell, son of Mr and Mrs S.E. Nowell, of London and Istanbul, and Anne, daughter of the late Mr R.D. Mussen, of Broughty Ferry, and of Mrs J. Lindop, of Somerset, and stepdaughter of Mr J.S. Beach, of Northern Ireland.

Mr G.E. Pownall and Miss J.A.M. Marland.
The engagement is announced between Mr Pownall, younger son of Mr and Mrs Donald K. Pownall, of St Austell, Cornwall, and Sally, only daughter of Mr and Mrs H.S. Marland, of Rottingdean, Sussex.

Mr M.A. Saxby and Miss S. Dalglish.
The engagement is announced between Mr Saxby, of London, and Sarah, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs J. Dalglish, of Kilturban, Scotland.

Mr M.R.J. Tyler and Miss P.M. Maxwell.
The engagement is announced between Mr Tyler, elder son of Mr C.J.A. Tyler, of London, and Patricia, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs W.M. Maxwell, of Strathdon, Aberdeenshire.

Nature notes



The common tern

Common terns have returned from Africa to their breeding colonies, including the one just north of London in the Lea Valley. At present, just before the pair off, they are displaying themselves by flying about screaming noisily and carrying fish in their beaks. Later the males will feed the females while they are preoccupied with laying eggs.

More young birds are appearing.

The first fledgling starlings are out of the nest, begging for their parents on the ground and chasing them when they fly. Mallard ducklings follow their mother on the water; if one strays, it speeds back to its family like a water-busman at the first sign of danger.

Mid-May is usually the time when the trees are in their freshest and fullest green, but this year, after the early spring, many leaves are already growing darker. Since last week, many have acquired a more chestnut look as their white flowers have turned brown and started falling. Ragged robin is out, with its tattered-looking pink flowers; it often grows near cornfields, whose white flowers hang their heads.

DJH

Hell is manifest and is manifest



The class of '72: Jane Bidder (second from right, centre row) during her North London Collegiate days and (front) catching up with former classmates at their recent reunion



Bound by the old school ties

There was Monica, scarcely changed by producing two children and graduating from teaching maths to running her own maternity hire business. There was Ramune, stylish as ever, having just launched a top-selling woman's weekly. And, over there, were the sophisticated set, a few years older and with noticeably more crows' feet around the eyes. One of them hawking the latest fashion accessory: a baby. Husbands were thin on the ground, the few bemused victims clutched by their wives, hand-bag fashion.

Stories abounded about the absentees: one classmate (now a gynaecologist) had delivered another's baby, a second had married a former classmate's boyfriend, a third had just been made a director of Body Shop.

Why do people go to school reunions, and why are they such a booming business? Benenden and Wycombe Abbey are only two girls' schools which report a stepping up of the old-girl get-togethers.

For Deborah Chapman (Benenden 1955-59), nostalgia and fund raising are only part of the story. "I think people go back to reassure themselves that they look better than their contemporaries - fewer wrinkles and so on. When you reach a certain age, with children leaving the nest, you feel the need to go backwards."

Mrs Chapman - who organized the school's reunion in March this year - gains waspish amusement from re-establishing contact. "I

can't get over the number of rather dreary girls who've married terribly attractive men. Perhaps the men don't want to be eclipsed, so they purposely choose dull partners. Similarly, I'm also amazed by some very pretty women who haven't got married as fast as I would have expected them to. And I've noticed, too, that many plainish girls have blossomed in the intervening years."

Her sister, Victoria, says that the first thing she looks for is what people are wearing. Regulation attire seems to be smart cocktail, and plenty of effort is made.

Simple curiosity needles many a former pupil into seeking out classmates, according to the Association of Representatives of Old Pupils' Societies (Arops). "You don't see this with girls who have just left because they're quite rightly keen to go out into the world," says the chairman, Margaret Carter-Pegg. "But when they reach their late twenties, there is an element of wanting to go back to their roots, both to reassure themselves and to see if people have changed."

Also comes the slow realization that life does not necessarily consist of tailor-made pools of potential friends. "My closest friends today are those I knew in the classroom because we were thrown together for such a long time," Mrs Chapman says.

Dr Aris Ambelas, a consultant psychiatrist for Leicester Health Authority, points out: "One never makes the same attachments after school. One tends to make friends

Are school reunions simply a chance for the successful to show off? Jane Bidder reports on a boom in going back

for professional reasons, rather than because of a general emotional attraction as one did in the classroom, where there was a far wider selection of personalities to choose from. And there is something secure, when you reach a certain age, about finding people from your past." His own experience of school reunions has persuaded him that people do change, even if only in terms of their attractiveness to the opposite sex.

This itch to catch up with the past struck Pam Hamilton-Dick, advertising manager for *The Times* classified section. "I put a personal ad in for myself to trace old school friends, mainly because I am in my thirties. I knew it would be lovely to find out what happened to people of my age group. Perhaps it's because everyone is moving so fast in the Nineties, it would be nice to find something more stable." She received five letters from old friends, and sold the idea of a School Ties column in the paper as a regular Monday event: "So far, it has been

very successful. One woman rang up in the second week to say she had been reunited with classmates from the Thirties whom she assumed were dead."

Dr Ambelas believes those who do turn up to reunions are "more likely to be those who succeeded and lived up to school expectations". Sometimes, old girls turn up to prove the point in reverse. One successful woman lawyer recently returned to her old school to prove she had not been as unpromising as the staff had predicted.

Do people become more interesting as they get older? And if you lost touch with them, was it because they were simply forgettable people? "The conversation can dry up, leaving you to ask the invariable question 'how many children do you have?'" says Victoria Chapman. "That leads to a lengthy spiel about Jeremy being at Cambridge and Lavinia setting up her own interior design business. Old girls tend to be frightfully competitive about their own children. Perhaps this is why people are sometimes scared to go back."

The fear of returning appears to be a female trait, since male reunions, according to Arops, are generally more popular. "I'm not sure why," says Ms Carter-Pegg. "Perhaps it's because men do not seem to mind as much as women how much the events cost."

The cost can vary from £5 for a cocktail evening to a three-figure

sum for a trip abroad. Wycombe Abbey old girls have organized trips to Istanbul, Florence, Venice and Vienna during the last four years, and today a party of 30 leaves for Madrid. These outings are attended mostly by the over-forties and, since only a half dozen or so husbands go along, widows and single travellers need not feel left out.

Isis (Independent Schools Information Service) points out that more schools are organizing reunions now purely to raise money from old boys (again, more generous than old girls) to provide new design and technology centres.

Nor are reunions confined to public schools. The National Association of School Teachers believes that while some modern comprehensive are phasing out the idea, it is still alive and well in former grammar schools. Christine Franklin (Highbury Hill High School 1949-54) is organizing its 61st reunion. "We get old girls as young as 20 and as old as 65-plus. Many of us were working-class pupils, but our school gave us something. I don't know what it was but it is a certain thing that is always there."

Perhaps the final word should go to another old girl who did not want to be named. "I think we all go away from these reunions with a feeling of inadequacy if we have not done as well as the others. Then a couple of years later these feelings fade and the nostalgia takes over. So when the next reunion invitation arrives, the school hymn starts humming in our heads and we accept."

The hard man in soft focus

Is Glasgow the last home of the unreconstructed man - or has the City of Culture swept him away?

Danny Scouler, the hero of William McIlvanney's novel *The Big Man*, takes up a career as a bare-knuckle boxer as the answer to his unemployment and marital disharmony.

He is a hard man - the sort who gave Glasgow its reputation for cut-throat razors at every corner and running gang fights in Sauchiehall Street. The kind who conjures up images of drunks and the hoarse cry "see you, Jimmy".

The film adaptation of Mr McIlvanney's book, soon to be released, comes at an unfortunate time. This is, after all, the year when Glasgow is designated European City of Culture. Cultured cities don't have hard men, do they?

Whether we believe that or not, those of us who care deeply about Glasgow have been trying to convince the world that it is not only the buildings which have had their gritty surfaces cleaned during the last decade. Our men, too, we plead, have been cleansed of all that rough stuff.

Then along comes Bill, an ordinary guy - and we are back to square one. All tough stuff and Glasgow kisses.

But please remember that Bill - William - writes fiction. The real 1990 Glasgow man wheels prams, presides over a barbecue and drinks designer lager. Or he wears a flamboyant fedora, drinks designer whisky and is almost convinced that a woman's place, in the 21st century, could be in the boardroom. Even our football hooligans are lambs compared with nasty boys from England.

Mr McIlvanney is no macho man. A single parent, he shares a West End Glasgow pied-à-terre with his son, a student. He is splendidly groomed and enjoys, I am told, the company of women.

Billy Connolly (who appears in *The Big Man* as Frankie, the hard man with a heart of gold) has complained that Glasgow is over-Yuppified and that with the advent of the Merchant City we have seen the exit of the real character of the place. But that famous son of Glasgow, a former shipyard worker, is a

non-drinking vegetarian who cuddles his children in public.

Still, while the Gorbals has long gone and the smash of a pint glass breaking on an oak bar is becoming as rare as the hammer's clang on the Clyde, some of the men of west Scotland have a long way to go. As long as their mummies can see them doing no wrong and will wait upon them until the day they marry, they will believe that the only place for a woman is in the home.

But at least they are honest. What you see is what you get, says a friend who lived for years in London and was totally disillusioned by southern Englishmen claiming to be nappy changers and dishwashers when in fact they were as unreconstructed as Mr McIlvanney's Big Man.

There never were all that many hard men, but they could always cause a lot of harm. They have damaged a fine city's reputation in the past. Today, the damage is perhaps more insidious, because the Glasgow hard man of 1990 has gone underground. Violence on the streets may be minimal, but domestic violence is rife. A survey carried out by the *Evening Times*, the city's evening newspaper, in conjunction with the Glasgow Women's Support Project, showed that women are scared in their own homes and nearly half of the respondents had been threatened, bullied or assaulted by the man with whom they lived.

The respondents to such surveys are self-selective, which gives us 700 women in a population of 700,000 being the victims of sadistic men. Seven hundred too many, but it puts it in perspective - just as outsiders should put the hard-man image of Mr McIlvanney's *The Big Man* into perspective when considering a visit to 1990's City of Culture.

Marian Pallister
 ● The author is women's editor of the *Evening Times* in Glasgow and feature writer of the year in the UK Press Gazette British Regional Press Awards.

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EDUCATION

History takes a dramatic turn

What happens when, in the name of teaching history, a 'Victorian' troupe meets 50 television-hardened teenagers? Douglas Broom reports

Young Charles Knightley was being rather silly last week. In a sailor suit and plus-fours, the eligible Victorian bachelor romped in front of a group of teenagers singing nursery rhymes.

Apart from celebrating the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria, Mr Knightley, actor Ben Ross, was also helping the third form at Hodgson High School at Poulton-le-Fylde, near Blackpool, to prepare for a GCSE in history.

The Young National Trust Theatre Company (YNTT), in which Mr Ross, is also the musical director, was at Rufford Old Hall near Wigan, Lancashire, for the start of its 1990 season.

Through the summer the company will tour National Trust properties with *Two Nations*, a play about life in Victorian Britain in which pupils play supporting roles and ultimately determine the outcome of the drama.

Their blend of history and theatre is almost supernatural in its effect. The arrival in a room of a group of people, who looked for all the world as if they might have lived there 100 years ago, produced a palpable and immediate response from 50 television-hardened teenagers.

Liz Rothschild, the artistic director of the YNTT, said: "It is like a dream that many of us have had of being able to meet and talk to people from the past. What we say and what we wear are accurate and true to the period we are working in."

After the initial shock had subsided, the pupils at last week's performance spent the afternoon making punch in the housekeeper's parlour, singing rousing songs with "Mr Knightley" and composing a petition with a Victorian trade unionist.

Throughout, the actors remained resolutely in character, forcing the students to adapt their language and their attitudes to those of the 19th century.

Simon Hutchins, who plays Thomas Ash, a factory worker and trade unionist, ran into the sort of problem that arises when you force a late-20th century teenager to deal with a Victorian on his own terms.

In a genuine attempt to enter into the spirit of the day, one teenage boy proudly announced

he, too, was a factory hand. "At what factory do you work?" the Victorian workman asked. "Volvo," came the reply.

In the embarrassed silence, Ash said: "I do not believe that I have ever heard anyone speak of such a place."

Language aside, the performance demands that pupils re-examine many of their modern assumptions. Part of the plot concerns a plan to dig a quarry on the estate.

"They really are very green in their outlook," said Rachel Hayward, who plays Lady Rutherford, a philanthropist who tries to mediate between the interests of capital and the working men.

"One of them told me that digging the quarry would damage the ozone layer. I had to ask very carefully what that was."

Jane Alistair, who portrays Violet Huel, a working girl, said: "They were also quite shocked when they realized that working people in the 19th century would have welcomed a development like that which would have given them work. It is amazing how quickly they adjust their outlook to the 19th century and attempt to understand how people thought and felt then."

Miss Rothschild, who wrote *Two Nations*, believes pupils find it easier to study history on paper after their brush with "real" people of the period.

Preparation is equally important and the YNTT provides a 44-page teachers' guide filled with contemporary accounts of life in 1887.

"They come knowing at least something about the period," said Miss Rothschild. "This time a lot of them seem to have made their own Jubilee medals, which is very good."

Susan Willoughby, the head of history at Hodgson High, said: "The students have all made their own costumes and I think they look very good." A top hat rose among the mob-caps as she spoke. A bowler was to be seen among the shawls. Disbelief now firmly suspended, everyone entered into the business of resolving the conflicts inherent in the life of a great house in Victorian times.

One of the strangest elements of the day was the way in which all those concerned shied away from naming the concept at the heart of what they were doing.



Actor and musical director Ben Ross meets one of the children in the production of *Two Nations*

Empathy has had a pretty bad press in the past three years, largely because of the acrimonious row that broke out between a group of history teachers at Lewes in Sussex and an examination board on the eve of the first GCSE exams in 1988.

The dispute centred on sample papers issued by the Southern Examining Group, to whom, others, the history department at Lewes Priory School, a comprehensive in the county town of East Sussex.

The teachers accused the board of asking questions that allowed pupils to fantasize about the past by placing themselves in the shoes of people from history. The board replied that only those pupils who based their replies firmly on

historical evidence would score any marks. This rather narrow dispute has led to a fear of using the word to describe a process which is plainly important, not only for the study of historical fact but as a training for life.

Learning to see the other person's point of view, even if one profoundly disagrees with that view, is an essential preparation for life in a democratic society.

"I still do not like to call it empathy, although that is what it is — a quite literal sense of the word," says Mrs Willoughby.

"This performance brings history alive in a very direct way and it also raises historical issues in a form to which the pupils can relate. Arguments about whether profits or people should come first take on real meaning and they are forced to examine both sides of the question."

In the national debate about

empathy, it was left to the National Curriculum History Working Group, under the chairmanship of Commander Michael Saunders Watson to speak with the voice of common sense.

The group, in its interim report, refused to take sides in a debate which it declared was "to some extent contrived" and which rested "on thin evidence or even misapprehension."

The YNTT is thriving by turning an abstract concept such as empathy into a real meeting between past and present. Having National Trust houses to use as a backdrop helps, but the authenticity of its performance is at the heart of its success.

● The YNTT, sponsored by Barclays Bank, plans to become a permanent company taking workshops to schools in the winter and continuing with its plays at National Trust houses in the summer.

NOTICEBOARD

Graduate hints

BRITISH industry is not making the best use of its graduates, says Tony Webb, the director of education and training for the Confederation of British Industry.

The CBI is holding a one-day conference tomorrow together with the Engineering Council and the Engineering Employers' Federation to help companies understand the needs of graduates, who will be able to take even more care in their choice of jobs in the 1990s.

Mr Webb says: "Some graduates are leaving companies within two years. They are dissatisfied with their jobs because they are not being stretched properly and they do not see their careers developing. With the increased competition in the market place, it is essential that employers use their graduate employees to the full."

The conference, at the CBI's London headquarters, will discuss how effective recruitment can be followed by efficient use, successful retention and the development of graduates within individual companies.

Science friction

SECONDARY schools throughout the country are to be encouraged to persuade their 14-year-olds to take the double-award GCSE science examination, rather than the single-award possible under the national curriculum.

The Association for Science Education is sending a leaflet to the headteacher and governors of every secondary school in England and Wales warning that the single-award will not properly prepare pupils for careers in science or technology.

The leaflet, endorsed by many leading companies, warns: "A decision to follow only a single-award course in science will make it difficult to study A-level courses in biology, chemistry or physics, and difficult to go on to a scientific or technological career."

"A single-award GCSE science course will miss out crucial aspects of science just when pupils need them."

Multi-modules

HEADTEACHERS should examine new ways to teach different subjects as one lesson in a series of short courses, "modules", which can be used as part of the GCSE examinations. The

Northern Examining Association's final report says the approach would allow the sharing of teacher expertise in national curriculum subjects, would promote the development of teaching and testing resources, and enable pupils to be given short-term achievable targets.

Local authorities should train teachers in how to develop the new courses and devise "pupil-friendly" ways of writing the assessments of class work required under the National Curriculum.

The GCSE examining groups, says the project team, should provide syllabuses which can credit pupils for each module they complete successfully and which can be assessed over two years for the full GCSE award.

Glasnote

SEVEN STUDENTS from the Moscow Central School for Music are to visit Sir Yehudi Menuhin's school for musically gifted children in Surrey. It was a visit to the Moscow school in 1945 by Sir Yehudi that led to his determination to found his own music school.

The Soviet and British students will combine to give a concert in St John's Smith Square on June 7, when they will play solo and chamber music by Schumann, Mendelssohn and Brahms.

Left out?

LEARNING to write is the first hurdle most left-handed children encounter because of their natural inclination to push their pen away from their body, according to the author of a new booklet for the left-handed.

"Writing for the Left-Handed", by Jean Alston, aims to assist parents and teachers to help left-handed children write legibly. The booklet includes a 10-point plan to combat reversal, mirror-writing, seating, posture and poor grip.

No official statistics exist for the number of people who are left-handed but it is estimated that there are about nine million in the United Kingdom, up to 200 million world-wide.

The booklet is published by Sinclair Books and is available at £2.50 in bookshops, or £2.80 from the Left-Handed Company, PO Box 52, South Manchester M20 8PJ.

David Tytler
Education Editor

071-481 1066

EDUCATIONAL

Continued on page 33

COURSES



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* Research findings as reported in the Financial Times



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For further particulars contact Professor R J Bomey, 15 rue Chernoviz, 75016 PARIS, who should receive applications no later than 16 June 1990.

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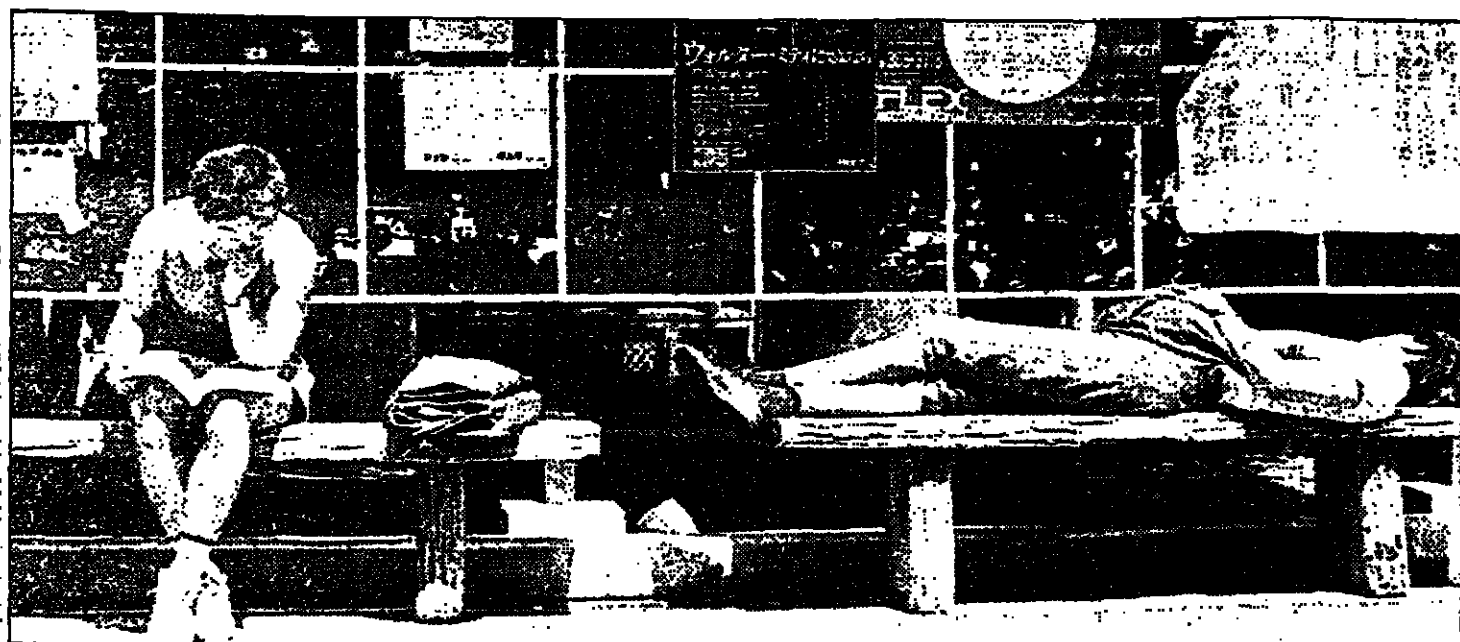
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EDUCATION



Leisure lands: the reputation of Japanese graduates is determined by the university's status, rather than the quality of their work

Study in Japan is easy — getting a university place is hard work, John Greenlees writes

A pleasant waste of four years is how Hiroshi Okada, aged 24, describes his recently completed higher education at one of Japan's prestigious universities. In a nation devoted to diligence, Japan's 460 or so universities have a reputation as places where students enjoy a vacation between the hard grind of school and work.

Lectures are often skipped and many students spend their time relaxing, playing sports or working at part-time jobs — making them among the richest young people in the world.

Graduation is virtually a formality. A graduate's reputation is determined by the status of the university he or she has attended rather than the quality of the work done there. "The difficult part of Japanese higher education," says Taeko Nakane, a student, "is getting into a good university."

Such are the rewards for winning a place at a top university that some students take several years to prepare for university entrance exams at full-time cramming courses. Once they have entered their targeted universities, students can relax.

The emphasis on general education and unpopular subjects in most curricula discourages many students from attending lectures. "We had enough English Literature at high school," says Mr Okada, who believes that compulsory general education subjects should be abandoned.

Teaching methods also lower attendance at lectures and tutorials. "Discussion and student involvement are minimal," says Bruce McKintyre, an American student who has been studying in Japan for the past year. "Many

A degree in the soft life

lecturers are so uninspiring there is little incentive to attend classes."

Low pay for academic staff deters talented students from considering an academic career. To supplement their income, many lecturers take second jobs at cramming schools. Japanese lecturers, critics often say, are not entirely dedicated to their university commitments.

The Japanese education system, with its emphasis on traditional education, encourages students to agree with their dons rather than question what they are saying. Rote learning and the lack of opportunities to express ideas

have produced a poor research environment and a disappointing contribution to international science. Poor facilities, particularly in the many private institutions that most students attend, also hinder good research work.

To counter international criticism that Japan has benefited from research carried out in other countries, yet has made no reciprocal contribution, the Japanese government has been repeatedly urged to commit more funds to higher education. Reformers also want to dismantle the rigid seniority system within universities, which prevents talented young researchers from reaching posts of

influence while at their intellectual peak.

A growing number of Japanese companies is also looking for higher research standards and a supply of graduates able to produce the new ideas and inventions needed to maintain the country's industrial supremacy in the 21st century. Other companies, however, remain satisfied with the present supply of graduates who, they say, are easily moulded into obedient company workers.

Nevertheless, reform has been discussed by the College Education Subcommittee of the University Council, which was convened to suggest ways of improving Japan's higher-education system.

One of the council's conclusions is that colleges and universities should have greater flexibility to devise their own curricula and credit systems. At present, universities are required to offer a standardized curriculum that provides a minimum of 36 credits for liberal arts subjects, eight for a foreign language, four for physical education and the remaining 76 for specialized courses.

The committee also recommends the introduction of a framework for enabling universities to assess their own teaching and research standards and that the results of these should be made available for public scrutiny.

Other reform groups have advocated tougher graduation standards. But there is reluctance in universities to alter radically a system of higher education that has helped directly, or indirectly, Japan's economic miracle.

● The author has recently returned from Japan, where he worked as a writer and photographer.

A YEN TO TEACH IN THE EAST

YOUNG British graduates wanting to teach in Japan can apply to the Japanese Embassy in London to take part in the Japanese exchange and teaching programme which, since 1978, has arranged for 1,207 British teachers to teach in Japanese schools and colleges. The programme was extended in 1988 to include graduates from the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Ireland, and last year to include France and West Germany. In August last year, 270 British

graduates, selected by the Japanese Embassy in London, took up posts in schools throughout Japan. Others extended previous contracts or moved to other schools, bringing the total number of graduates to 370. All universities and polytechnics and colleges can apply to the programme in mid-October and closing date is mid-January the following year. Applications for this year topped 1,000, from which 263 were selected to leave for Japan in July.

Wight nights, wild days

What should parents ask before children go on their first school journey — and what do accompanying adults need to know?

This is the story of a school journey. Not the glamorous ski trip or major expedition to the heart of the Soviet Union or the foothills of the Himalayas but five nights on the Isle of Wight.

The island was crawling with children from the mainland. For most of the 25 south London primary pupils, aged between 10 and 11, being there was excitement enough. For many, it was their first period away from home, a prospect apparently viewed with more concern by the parents than the children.

The head was an old hand at school journeys and the island; the two teachers and this accompanying parent were novices at both. For parents faced with sending their children on their first school journey, one of the most important questions is whether the group will be properly looked after.

Regulations insist that a school journey must be led by a qualified teacher who has been away with such a party before. There must be at least one male and one female and the ratio of children to adults should be at least one to 10. The trip has to be approved by the governors.

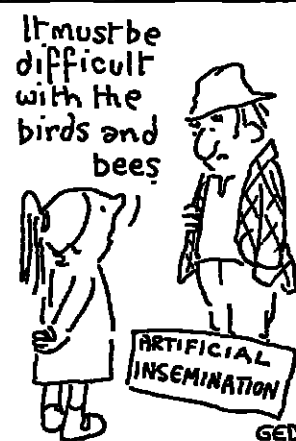
Parents, however, should ask more. For example, just how experienced is the leader, how well does he or she know the ground that is going to be covered and how well-prepared is the week's programme?

Problems with the children tend to come when they become bored or have too much time on their hands. The trick seems to be to keep them at it from dawn to dusk while allowing some fairly strenuous, closely supervised play.

In the Isle of Wight party, children were allowed in the water only with three adults in close attendance; one acting as the back marker, and well within his depth, the second in the middle, the third prowling the edge.

Accidents, however, happen in even the best-regulated circumstances. Ours was a broken collarbone on the fourth day when two of the best-behaved of the boys made a dash to catch a ball and collided shoulder to shoulder. It is all on video for the parents to see. There was another lesson here, too. The stoicism of a 10-year-old boy can be misleading: it was only when he showed a distinct list to the left that anybody realized anything was seriously wrong.

A sting seemed to do the trick



It must be difficult with the birds and bees

and by the time he was in the casualty department of the Royal Isle of Wight County Hospital, it appeared that the adults had been overly cautious, particularly when the boy tired of the nurse fussing to remove his T-shirt without hurting him and pulled it straight over his head.

A doctor confirmed the original diagnosis and the boy was asked whether he wanted to go home.

"Certainly not," he replied. His only concern was that he would not be able to ride on the "death slide" at the adventure park to be visited the next day. He did, however, continue to play football when the teachers were not looking.

No matter how carefully planned the trip, how well supervised, there is no room for a minute's relaxation by the adults. If a way can be found to make

WHAT TO ASK

- Do the arrangements meet the minimum requirements laid down by the local education authority?
- Who is accompanying the visit and what experience do they have?
- Have the facilities been checked and what are they?
- Is the school sharing the accommodation? If so, what is known about the other school or other guests?
- What first-aid experience do the trip leaders have?
- What will the children be expected to do and to learn during the week?
- Can you see the programme?
- What does the team leader see as the most important aspect of the trip?

even the safest event just slightly risky, a 10-year-old boy will find it. But at least with the boys, what you get is what you see. They are either behaving or acting the goat — and that is easy to deal with.

Girls, however, seem better at organizing the mayhem without actually becoming involved in it. Six girls in one room require their minders to have eyes like hawks.

The head on this trip, with her battered Youth Hostel Association rucksack on her back, kept everyone busy throughout the week to limit the amount of time for mischief, walking for miles, turning every leaf, drawing every flower, describing every ship, investigating every castle.

The highlight of the week was the visit to a dairy farm just outside Ryde where, from April to July, the farmer entertains up to three school parties a day on a genuinely educational visit.

Schools can opt for "the nun's version", which omits mention of artificial insemination, or choose the full, but gentle explanation of what life is really like on the farm.

The approach of Howard Johnson, the farmer, could not be faulted. "This is a dairy farm," he said. "Cows produce milk, which the farmer sells for money. Cows and pigs also produce meat, which the farmer sells for money."

"This is a farm with 100 cows but not one bull, so how do we get around that? We send for Farmer's Playboy."

He produced a selection of catalogues showing bull after bull, with pedigree and track record. Mr Johnson explained that the sperm from the bull he used on his farm was sent deep-frozen in straws from Canada. Each straw cost £30 and contained 20 million sperm — "and you need only one to work for the cow to have a calf and for the farmer to make money."

The children loved it, learning in a relaxed atmosphere, which might never be possible in the classroom.

Parents should check, though, that the children are going to be kept busy and that the trip, which will cost them something over £100, has educational value and is not just a holiday.

The test of a successful school journey is whether the children return more independent and self-reliant, having learnt lessons not possible in the classroom.

David Tytler
Education Editor

Industry woos the public school student Independent Education, page 32

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

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please contact the School Secretary at:
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Tel: 071-435 1916

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Loughborough University of Technology

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Required for the Department of Library and Information Studies, to carry out research and teaching on records management and automated information handling (Ref 90/105/LS) and on information management and business information (Ref 90/106/LS).

Initial salary will be either on the Lecturer Grade A scale (£10,458 - £15,372) or on the Lecturer Grade B scale (£16,014 - £20,469).

Application forms (returnable by 11th June 1990) and further details from the Personnel Office, University of Technology, Loughborough, LE11 3TU, quoting the relevant reference number.

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

Chair of Paediatric Medicine

Applications are invited for the Chair of Paediatric Medicine in the University Department of Child Health, which is based at the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital (Alder Hey), the largest children's hospital in Western Europe. The successful candidate will be invited to take up appointment at the earliest convenient date.

The University is seeking a candidate to provide strong academic and clinical leadership, to further develop a personal research programme and to stimulate and facilitate the research of others. There is great potential for innovation and development in all aspects of child health, and for collaborative programmes with other University departments.

The person appointed will have an honorary consultant contract for six sessions in paediatric medicine with the Liverpool Health Authority.

The salary will be in the range approved for clinical professional salaries (currently up to £38,540 per annum (under review)).

Interested parties are invited to contact the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Professor J.M. Beazley (051-709 2601).

Quote ref: RV/688/TT

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Heads consider new exam at 17

By David Tytler, Education Editor

A NEW examination for 17-year-olds to bridge the gap between GCSEs and A-levels, is likely to be called for at a special conference of the headmasters of the country's leading independent schools. The 17-plus would be used as an entrance qualification to colleges of further and higher education and as a way to broaden the general education of sixth formers taking the traditional A-levels for university entry.

Most of the 230 members of the Headmasters' Conference are expected to attend the special meeting in London next month to discuss the future of A-levels and the teaching of 16 to 19-year-olds now being reviewed by the Government.

Mr David Jewell, Master of Haileybury College and chair-

man of the Headmasters' Conference, said that it was the first time he could remember an extraordinary general meeting being called outside the annual conference. He said the future of A-levels was particularly important to Headmasters' Conference schools which teach 30 per cent of the sixth formers taking the traditional three A-levels required for university entry.

"We need a 17-plus examination to encourage pupils to stay on. The new examination could be taken on the way to A-levels, providing breadth, or it could be an end in itself," Mr Jewell said. He made it clear that A-levels would remain for the most able pupils. "We like A-levels. They are well tried and tested, their standards accepted and

known. They have credibility and appeal to the high fliers we have in our schools." Mr Jewell said that it followed that A-levels were not a suitable way of selecting all students for further education and added: "We do not need the second tier of AS levels."

It is likely that some headmasters will resist any broadening of A-levels, to be taken by 200,000 pupils this year, but there is likely to be general approval for the new examination at 17.

Some headmasters had favoured the five "leaner" A-levels advocated by Professor Gordon Higginson of Southampton University in 1988 but rejected by the Government. Mr Jewell said: "There is a growing realization that Higginson is dead, a political assassination rather than an educational one."

Canon Peter Pilkington, High Master of St Paul's, is one of the leading campaigners resisting any change to the existing A-levels, while Dr Eric Anderson, headmaster of Eton, is among those who believe some reform is necessary if the Government wants to achieve its aim of doubling the number of students in higher education in the next 25 years. He will address the June conference on the need to make the best use of existing options while other heads will speak of the benefits of the International Baccalaureate and the use of vocational courses.

The conference is also likely to tell the Government that the new AS examinations, the "half A-levels", have failed and should be scrapped. Nearly half the 35,000 students who entered the examinations last year failed.

Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, is now considering proposals from the National Curriculum Council that there should be six compulsory core skills in every A-level: communication, problem-solving, management of their own learning, numeracy, information technology and modern languages. Critics of the examination at 17-plus claim that it will be a backward step recreating a series of old examinations, like OA levels.

Pupils should have more teaching time in preparation for GCSEs, Mr MacGregor says today. He has accepted general criticism from headteachers that the examinations are starting too soon in the summer term and imposing an unreasonable burden on the schools and he has asked the GCSE examining boards to consider the retiming of the examinations.

Education, pages 18-19
Special report, 32

Devon oil slick drifts off shore

By David Young

OFFICIALS from the department of Transport's newly-formed Accident Investigation branch have started a full inquiry into the cause of the tanker collision which threatened to send an oil slick on to South Devon beaches.

Pollution experts appeared to have won their battle yesterday as the slick continued to drift slowly 13 miles off shore. It was growing smaller and was to be surveyed from the air at dawn today to decide whether to continue detergent spraying.

The Iranian crude oil spilled from the port side of the tanker Rosebay (274,571 tonnes) after it was holed by the Brixham-based beam trawler Dionne Marie. The tanker had stopped 14 miles south of Start Point to await a Channel pilot when the collision happened. It made a 15in hole in one of the Rosebay's tanks.

Five DC3 aircraft and the converted trawler Pendragon II have been spraying the slick. It is near an area of coast owned by the National Trust, and almost all the coast nearby is designated as of Outstanding Natural and Special Scientific Interest.

Mr Terry Page, chairman of Torbay Hoteliers Association, said: "We are all hoping it will be treated before it gets ashore. If it does it will be disastrous."

Mr Roger Swinfen, of the Devon Birdwatching and Preservation Society, said diving birds were already at risk, both from the oil and the spraying operation. "If the oil comes ashore it will affect important breeding grounds

of birds such as guillemots, razorbills, cormorants and shags," he said.

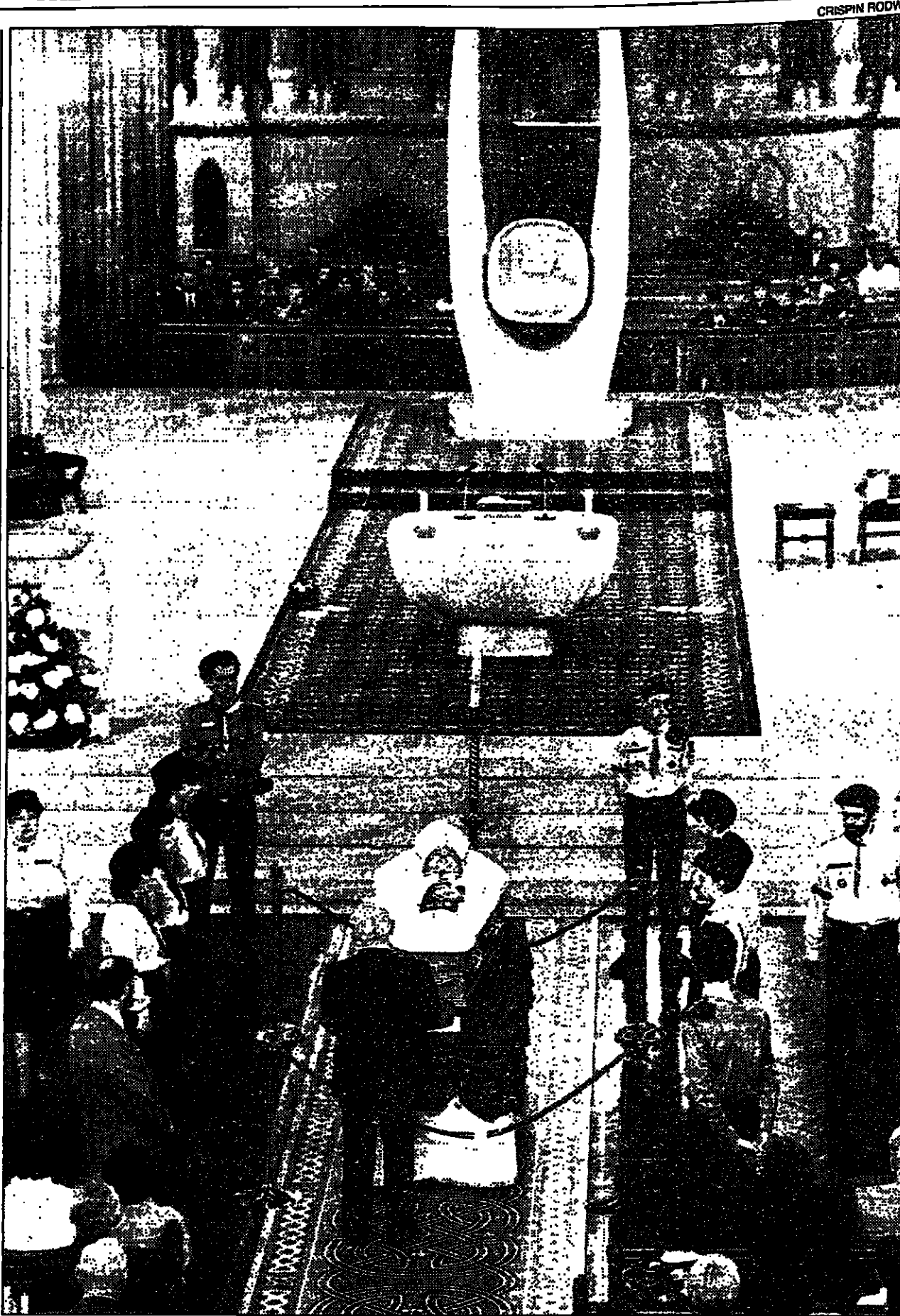
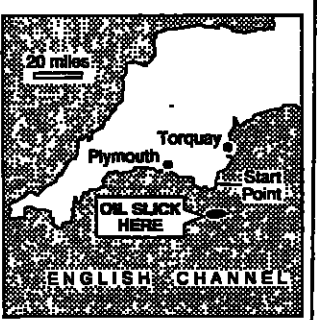
The Rosebay, three times larger than the Torrey Canyon which went aground off Cornwall causing serious coastal pollution, was on its way from the Persian Gulf to Sweden. No one was hurt in the incident. The trawler later arrived safely at Kingswear, near Dartmouth, while the Rosebay was preparing to continue on its journey.

A beach clean-up manual has been produced to prevent a repeat of the damage to the environment and wildlife after an oil spillage in the Mersey estuary last August. It has been approved by eight local authorities responsible for the estuary after concern over the response to a pipeline emergency when a pipeline operated by Shell broke.

Water experts are investigating the pollution of more than a mile of the river Lodon at Chichester, Basingstoke, Hampshire, by engine oil and fuel.

Incidents which create environmental pollution are often kept secret, making it more difficult to combat their effects, the Campaign for Freedom of Information says.

Mr Roger Swinfen, of the Devon Birdwatching and Preservation Society, said diving birds were already at risk, both from the oil and the spraying operation. "If the oil comes ashore it will affect important breeding grounds



The body of Cardinal O'Flaich, Archbishop of Armagh, lying in state in St Patrick's Cathedral yesterday

Mourning flags for Irish Cardinal stolen

By Edward Gorman

POLICE in Belfast said yesterday they were investigating the theft of black mourning flags hung in country lanes in South Armagh as a sign of respect for Cardinal Tomás O'Flaich, who is to be buried tomorrow.

There were reports that flags had been torn down and poles smashed around the town of Bally Macnab. Priests and parishioners were said to be "very hurt" at the vandalism.

The body of Cardinal O'Flaich was returned to Ireland on Saturday from Lourdes in

France where he died of a heart attack last Tuesday while leading a pilgrimage.

The funeral cortege to Armagh, which stopped at Drogheda, Dundalk, and the villages of Crossmaglen and Cullyhanna, was greeted by thousands of people who lined the route to pay their respects to the leader of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland. Yesterday, thousands more filed through St Patrick's Cathedral in Armagh where his body is lying in state before the funeral service tomorrow.

Mad cow spectre at the feast

By Jamie Dettmer

A RECEPTION in Kiev for ministers and trade officials from Britain and the Soviet Union — the social highlight of a month-long British festival in the city — is to be denied a traditional roast beef meal because the Russians fear that British meat is contaminated with "mad cow" disease.

Three-quarters of a ton of prime Angus beef destined for next month's reception at Kiev, which may be attended by Princess Margaret, Mrs Thatcher and President Gorbachev, has been stopped from entering the Soviet

Union. Guests at the reception are likely to be served beef from Argentina instead.

Mr John Shipway, a director of the West Midlands-based Shipway Brothers Caterers who are preparing the reception, said he was disappointed.

"Ironically, we are shipping out mineral water to the festival because of lingering fears about contamination from the Chernobyl disaster," he said.

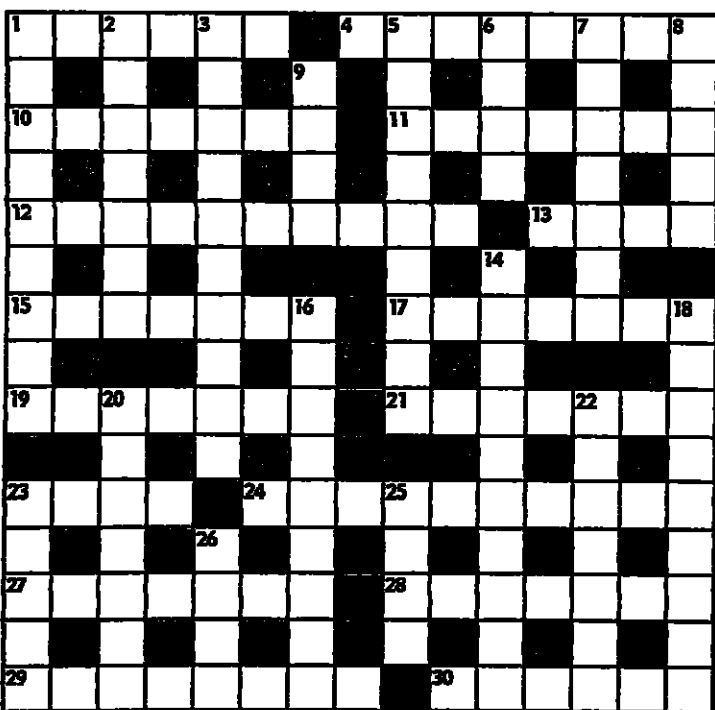
Mr Shipway was informed of a Soviet ban on British beef after his consignment of Angus beef had reached the docks in London on its way to Kiev. The Soviet Union imposed a

comprehensive embargo on British beef, lamb and dairy products last month after fears increased in several West European countries about the spread of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in Britain's cattle herds. Soviet officials were not willing to make an exception for Mr Shipway's Angus beef.

"It is a great shame," said Mr Shipway. "Apart from the beef, everything else at the reception will be from Britain — including the headache pills for anyone who might have overdosed it."

Beef warning, page 2

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,293



- ACROSS
- 1 Virginia, retiring girl, is a humble dependant (6).
 - 4 A graduate register may be reduced (8).
 - 10 A race he organised caused complaint (7).
 - 11 Looks for a variety of fruit in addition (7).
 - 12 "Softest and support it?", one scoffed (10).
 - 13 Fell down (4).
 - 15 Substituting for sainted characters (7).
 - 17 Figure the senior officer is wearing a tab (7).
 - 19 Pas de deux? (3-4).
 - 21 "Welcome ever smiles, and farewell goes out" (Troil. and Cress.) (7).
 - 23 Steel, so confine to bed (4).
 - 24 Writing about member perhaps meant preparing to do battle again (10).
- DOWN
- 1 Watch the head angle (9).
 - 2 It is important for Stock Exchange heads to have the right credit notes (7).
 - 3 Their suggestions are always constructive (10).
 - 5 Appealing for reform, see about involving University (9).
 - 6 Sort the letters (4).
 - 7 Talk big about the family causing a slowing down (7).
 - 8 Stand taken by the painter (5).
 - 9 Some men like pictures for capital investment (4).
 - 14 Still state this is not the country for women (10).
 - 16 The newspapers indeed make one despondent (9).
 - 18 Drinks enabling people to sleep tight? (9).
 - 20 Moving to time, many skipped (7).
 - 22 Repeat it over a long period, note (7).
 - 23 The holder is about to set the price (5).
 - 25 Sudden attack from the tall grass (4).
 - 26 River responsible for erosion (4).

Concise crossword, page 20

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 18,292 will appear next Saturday

WEATHER

Most areas dry with broken cloud, some sunny spells. However, eastern coastal areas of Scotland will be cloudier with perhaps a little rain. Eastern England also cloudy, but with some sun in the afternoon. Thicker cloud and patchy rain will edge into southwest England during the morning and into southwest Wales later. Nevertheless, even these areas should see a little sun. Winds light. Outlook: Cloud and rain spreading to all parts.

ABROAD

MONDAY: t=thunder; d=driizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; st=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain			
Algeria	21/20	Majorca	21/20
Alexandria	22/22	Malaga	21/20
Athens	26/20	Madrid	21/20
Bahia	24/22	Manila	30/26
Barcelona	20/28	Moscow	10/20
Bombay	29/24	Nairobi	18/11
Buenos Aires	19/26	Paris	17/17
Calcutta	29/24	Rome	18/11
Cairo	24/25	Seville	22/22
Canton	24/25	Stockholm	17/17
Cebu	24/25	Taipei	22/22
Colon	24/25	Tokyo	22/22
Dakar	24/25	Winnipeg	16/11
Dhaka	24/25	Zurich	17/17
Hong Kong	24/25		
London	15/20		
Lyons	15/20		
Manila	30/26		
Medan	24/25		
Moscow	10/20		
Nairobi	18/11		
Paris	17/17		
Rome	18/11		
Seville	22/22		
Stockholm	17/17		
Taipei	22/22		
Tokyo	22/22		
Winnipeg	16/11		
Zurich	17/17		

* denotes Saturday's figures

LONDON

Saturday: Temp: max 6 pm to 6 pm, 13C (55F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 8C (46F). Humidity: 6 pm, 75 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.02 in. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, 1.6 hr. Bar: mean sea level, 6 pm, 1011.4 millibars. Tides: 1,000 millibars = 29.93 in.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Saturday: Highest day temp: Jersey, 18C (64F); lowest day temp: Cape Wrath, North Scotland, 10C (50F). Highest night temp: Scarborough, North Yorkshire, 4C (39F). Lowest night temp: Selly Oak, 14.1 hr.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 15C (59F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 8C (46F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, trace. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, 3.2 hr.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 16C (61F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 8C (46F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, trace. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, 3.2 hr.

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sea	Wind	C	W	F
Scarborough	4.4	46	11	52	bright
London	9.8	12	57	57	bright
Lowestoft	6.5	15	59	59	bright
Southend	5.7	01	16	59	bright
Cardiff	3.7	16	59	59	bright
Belfast	10.4	16	61	61	bright
Liverpool	4.8	16	61	61	bright
Southampton	4.7	16	61	61	bright
Exmouth	4.4	15	59	59	bright
London	4.5	15	59	59	bright
Southampton	5.2	17	63	63	bright
Cardiff	4.8	16	61	61	bright
Lowestoft	11.9	19	61	61	bright
Torquay	12.6	16	61	61	bright
Newcastle	13.0	16	61	61	bright
Selly Oak	14.1	17	63	63	bright
Jersey	13.0	19	61	61	bright
Quebec	13.0	19	61	61	bright
St. Nees	13.7	19	59	59	bright
Minneapolis	12.7	16	59	59	bright
Blackpool	3.9	14	57	57	bright
Douglas	6.0	12	54	54	bright
Blackpool	3.1	14	57	57	bright
Leeds	3.1	14	57	57	cloudy
London	2.6	13	55	55	cloudy
Manchester	2.8	16	61	61	bright
Newcastle	3.2	15	59	59	bright
Quebec	3.1	15	59	59	cloudy
St. Nees	3.2	15	59	59	cloudy
Minneapolis	3.1	15	59	59	cloudy
Blackpool	8.9	16	61	61	bright
Lowestoft	8.9	16	61	61	bright
Cardiff	8.9	16	61	61	bright
London	8.9	16	61	61	bright
Southampton	12.9	17	63	63	bright
Cardiff	0.1	10	50	50	cloudy
Lowestoft	0.1	10	50	50	cloudy
Southampton	0.7	12	54	54	cloudy
Cardiff	0.4	10	50	50	cloudy
Lowestoft	0.4	10	50	50	cloudy
Southampton	2.8	10	50	50	cloudy
Cardiff	2.8	10	50	50	cloudy
Lowestoft	11.7	13	55	55	cloudy
Southampton	1.3	10	50	50	cloudy
Cardiff	1.3	10	50	50	cloudy
Lowestoft	1.3	10	50	50	cloudy

Iran and Britain may talk

- BUSINESS AND FINANCE 23-27
- FOCUS ON JAPAN 28-31
- LAW 26
- SPORT 35-42

BUSINESS

SECTION 2

MONDAY MAY 14 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton
CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6805 (+0.0195)
W German mark
2.7409 (-0.0365)
Exchange index
87.1 (-0.5)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1708.8 (+12.0)
FTSE 100
2175.9 (+13.7)
USM (Datastream)
129.87 (-0.29)

Merrill Lynch in Elders buy

MERRILL Lynch has bought the New York energy futures operation of Elders IXL, the financially troubled Australian brewing group.

Elders New York operation recorded a profit last year of about \$3 million and had assets of \$200 million with a book value of \$30 million.

A spokesman for Elders in New York declined to comment on the deal, but it is understood that the business was sold at a slight premium to book value.

The sale marks part of the dismantling of the finance division of Elders, which is being broken up as part of the group's attempts to concentrate on its brewing operations.

Elders Finance in New York now has investments of only \$200 million. These include a 14% stake in North West Airlines as well as investments in such companies as Sound Warehouse, the Disney joint-venture project, and the Hercules Offshore Drilling Company.

At its peak about a year ago, Elders had assets of \$1.3 billion in the US, including \$700 million in its bond trading operations which were sold earlier this year to J McIntee and Company.

Virgin stake for Japanese

VOYAGER Travel Holdings, Mr Richard Branson's holding company for Virgin Atlantic Airways, has received a £36 million equity and loan capital injection from Seibu Saison International, the leading Japanese hotel and retail group.

Seibu Saison, which together with Scandinavian Airline Systems (SAS) jointly owns the Intercontinental Hotels chain, is taking a 10 per cent stake in Voyager.

Mr Branson says the injection from the Japanese will help finance Virgin Atlantic's airline network, which will be further extended on Wednesday with an inaugural flight to Los Angeles.

Voyager reported a turnover of £115 million and pre-tax profits of £9 million in the year ended July 31.

Kingfisher chief takes salary cut

THE salary of Mr Geoffrey Mulcahy, the chief executive of Kingfisher, was cut by £44,000, from £701,000 to £657,000, for the financial year which ended on February 3.

Mr Mulcahy's remuneration is linked to performance and the 6 per cent fall resulted from a slowdown in the growth of Kingfisher's earnings per share.

Since then Mr Mulcahy, aged 48, has also taken on the role of chairman, a post for which his non-executive predecessor, Sir Kenneth Durham, was paid £87,000 last year.

Name change

The Institution of Production Engineers is changing its name to the Institution of Manufacturing Engineers. Merger talks are also in progress with the Institution of Electrical Engineers.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.25	2.175
Austria Sch	23.20	18.90
Belgium Fr	36.35	36.05
Denmark Kr	11.03	10.33
France F	6.55	6.45
Germany DM	9.75	9.12
Italy Lira	278.50	262.50
Japan Yen	160.00	155.00
Netherlands Gld	11.25	10.55
Portugal Esc	206.75	202.75
Spain Ptas	166.64	166.64
Switzerland Fr	10.33	9.93
Sweden Kr	10.33	9.93
Switzerland Fr	2.48	2.38
Turkey Lira	1.755	1.655
USA \$	2.45	17.50

For small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.
Retail Price Index: 121.6 (March)

New figures confuse rates policy picture

By Graham Searjeant
Financial Editor

THE Government will be faced this week with further conflicting signals about the speed and success of its policy of high interest rates in cutting demand and inflation in overcast parts of the economy.

The CBI's distributive trades survey, widely seen as an accurate short-term guide to consumer spending, shows a surprising upturn in sales for both retailers and wholesalers in April after an apparent downturn since the blip around the turn of the year.

There is good news on inflation from the building industry, but fears are rising that unemployment may rise for a prolonged period.

A bigger proportion of CBI respondents reported higher sales in April than a year ago than in any month since September. More re-

ported sales were good for the time of year than in any month since last July.

After the unexpected rise in stock of unsold goods in March, the balance of those reporting that stocks were too high fell back to its lowest for more than a year. The upturn in trade in April is likely to be reflected in the Government's figures today for retail sales.

The CBI suggests the embarrassing short-term recovery may be due to special factors, particularly because Easter, which is now a busy time for shopping expeditions, came in April in 1990, but in March last year.

The CBI puts more attention on the continuing downturn in the motor trade. This shows a balance of 60 per cent of firms reporting lower sales than a year ago, the worst since the survey started in 1983 and twice as bad as last November, the worst most recent month.

A quarterly survey from the Building Em-

ployers Confederation confirms this picture of heavy falls in spending on big items, at the same time as sales of low-price goods remain buoyant. The BEC projects a 5 per cent drop in the output of the building and contracting industry in 1990.

Inquiries for new work fell for the third consecutive quarter in the first three months of 1990, and the downturn has spread from housing related business to commercial construction work, except in the Midlands and Scotland.

Mr Peter Rainbird, BEC chairman, said: "These results suggest that, as with private housebuilding, the downturn in contracting could be sharper and more protracted than was initially anticipated."

The best news for the Chancellor is that tender price inflation in building contracts has ground to a halt in the first quarter because

less than 40 per cent of firms are working at full capacity.

But the survey will raise fears that the economy's uneven response to high interest rates will require a prolonged squeeze that will hit employment. The BEC said the usual spring upturn in employment had not taken place.

The Employment Institute issued a warning that "underlying" employment, net of the effect of special measures, had already started to rise and that Britain faced another prolonged period of rising unemployment.

Dr John Philpott, director of the Institute, said the outlook for unemployment looked bleak because of the Government's policy of relying on prolonged high interest rates to cut inflation. He said job losses in manufacturing would gather pace during 1990 and 1991, outpacing any growth in jobs elsewhere in the economy.

New firms no threat to power monopoly

By Martin Waller

PROSPECTS for effective competition for electricity customers, which have featured strongly in the Government's promotion of its scheme for electricity privatisation, will be heavily devalued by the City as it prepares to start selling the industry to the public this autumn.

In a detailed new research study, SG Warburg, joint broker to the sale of the 12 regional distribution companies, suggests that the threat to the distribution companies from outside competition has been exaggerated.

The study breaks down the companies' two main financial areas of operation, distribution and supply of electricity to the customer. The split reveals that the average company has relatively little to lose, even if customers took supplies direct from generating companies.

Distribution is effectively a local monopoly and can be viewed as a dependable utility-type business, such as water and gas supply, Warburg claims. Its model of a typical distribution company can expect to see revenues of £275 million from its distribution activities and £118 million profits before tax on an historic cost basis, the broker believes.

There is little chance of effective competition to the actual distribution network, rather as in the telecommunications industry, where the cost of duplicating British Telecom's cables has effectively shut Mercury out from competition except in areas of high density.

The supply business provides proportionately less profit - typically £11 million before tax on revenues of £810 million, says Mr Nigel Butler, the electricity analyst at Warburg.

He also sees little impact from big customers choosing to generate their own electricity. "If you look at what's happened to some of the schemes proposed, there's a lot of paper generated but a lot fewer generating schemes than first thought."

Profits growth from the 12 companies, once they are privatised this autumn, will have to come from volume growth, which will be largely tied to demographic trends, and from efficiency improvements.

It seems much more scope for cuts in overheads at the four successor companies to the Central Electricity Generating Board. As many as 5,000 jobs could go at National Power over the next five years.

UBS deal on Blue Arrow compensation

By Carol Leonard

UBS Phillips & Drew, the securities house, is believed to be on the brink of offering 30p a share compensation to investors with whom it placed stock after Blue Arrow's ill-fated £837 million rights issue in 1987.

This gesture, expected to be announced this week, represents an about-turn from original policy.

Three months ago, UBS said it would not pay compensation until criminal proceedings stemming from the issue - over the manner in which the failure of the issue was not revealed to the Stock Exchange - had been settled.

UBS said any payment might prejudice a fair trial of the 11 defendants who face criminal charges, and who include two existing and two former UBS employees.

But its London securities business is thought to have been so badly affected by this stance, with many large institutions deleting the firm from their approved dealing lists, that it may, while still denying legal liability, be prepared to match the 30p a share compensation on offer from County NatWest (CNW).

As long ago as July last year, Mr Rudolf Müller, chairman of UBS Phillips & Drew, said, when asked if its business had suffered by being linked to the issue: "I think it didn't help."

Institutions which took

Blue Arrow stock after the unsuccessful rights issue had been threatening legal action, unless UBS offered compensation, claiming they had bought in what later transpired to have been a false market.

After the issue, it was announced that the placing was a success. CNW failed to reveal it was holding a 13.4 per cent stake through its subsidiaries, thus supporting the price. CNW had masterminded the rights issue, with P&D as broker, placing unsubscribed stock with institutions.

In earlier talks between UBS and CNW aimed at formulating a joint compensation plan, UBS offered to pay 25 per cent of the compensation, raising that ultimately, to 40 per cent of the total to be paid by the two firms.

UBS argued that CNW should pay the remaining 60 per cent, because P&D had only been mentioned in 20 pages of the DTT's 200-page report, which gave a fair indication of its share of the blame. At this point, the talks ended.

County has since made its own unilateral offer, of 50 per cent of the proposed compensation figure, and the negotiations with UBS have been undertaken by a co-ordinating committee of the Institutional Shareholders Committee, led by Mr Donald Brydon, of BZW Investment Management, and Mr Ron Artus, of Prudential Assurance. Last

month, the ISC, which represents more than 100 aggrieved institutions, issued a statement saying "constructive discussions" with UBS had taken place and that "detailed proposals are being framed which, it is hoped, will lead to a satisfactory conclusion."

A spokesman for UBS Phillips & Drew yesterday refused to confirm or deny that a settlement is imminent.

But UBS is nevertheless under pressure to make its final offer before the end of this month since that is the deadline for investors to register their claims with CNW, under the terms of its offer.

CNW's offer, which could cost it up to £30 million if all those eligible apply before the May 31 cut-off point, binds those investors who do make claims to a full and final settlement agreement. If UBS reveals its final offer before then it could lead, once again, to a last-minute joint offer being made by the two firms. Such a move would be welcomed by City institutions.

The offer is of 30p a share to anyone who bought shares in Blue Arrow, the employment agency group since renamed Manpower. It covers the post-rights placing, and those who bought shares in the period between the placing on September 29, 1987, and October 26, 1987 - when the shares hit their lowest level. It will also pay up to 8p a share interest.



Worries over loss of business: Rudolf Müller, chairman of UBS Phillips & Drew

Pesetas on demand for Britons

By Lindsay Cook
Family Money Editor

MILLIONS of British holidaymakers will be able to use cash dispensers in Spain and Portugal to withdraw savings from their bank and building society accounts.

From today, 750 teller machines in Portugal can be used by customers of seven building societies and three banks. Another 2,000 machines in Spain will be added in June.

Customers of the Royal Bank of Scotland, Girobank and Allied Irish Banks plus investors with the Britannia, Chelsea, Derbyshire, Dunfermline, Northern Rock, Town & Country and Yorkshire building societies will be able to withdraw up to £250 a day in the local currencies.

To use the Multibanco machines in Portugal and those of Telebanco in Spain, customers must have a Link card or Royal Bank Cashline or Highline cards.

Pensions windfall at Daimler-Benz

By Wolfgang Münch, European Business Correspondent

DAIMLER-BENZ, West Germany's largest company, is expected to announce a large rise in earnings tomorrow, up from DM1.7 billion to just under DM7 billion (£2.5 billion).

The rise, which comes despite stagnating operating profits, results from an extraordinary credit on the revaluation of pension liabilities.



Reuter: quotes planned

ities and depreciation write-offs. Herr Edzard Reuter, the chairman, and his board have changed the accounting practice to bring the company into line with international practice before the expected listing of its shares in London and Tokyo.

Turnover rose by only 4.2 per cent to DM76.6 billion in 1989. About 75 per cent of earnings come from the core Mercedes-Benz business, which faces rising competition from Japanese car makers.

Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm, the aircraft maker acquired last year, will be consolidated in the 1990 accounts, but is not expected to make profits for some time.

Daimler-Benz shares have fallen from a recent high of DM955 to DM850. Mr Andrew Thompson, an analyst at Kleinwort Benson Securities, said the shares are unlikely to advance in the near future.

Battle for Peabody warms up

From Our Correspondent
New York

DEALERS are anxiously waiting to see whether Amx, the materials group, will this week raise its offer for Peabody Holding, the leading US coal producer, after mounting a bid battle with Hanson.

On Friday, Amx upset Hanson's plan to wrap up the 55 per cent of Peabody Coal it does not own by offering Newmont Mining \$1.3 billion for control of Peabody Holding, including \$718 million for the 55 per cent in Peabody Coal sought by Hanson.

Hanson replied by lifting its bid for Peabody Coal from \$715 million to \$725.6 million. Hanson paid \$504 million in February for its 45 per cent stake in Peabody Coal.

The bid battle is a boon for Newmont, which is seeking to reduce its \$2 billion debt incurred largely in fighting a 1987 bid by Mr T Boone Pickens, the corporate raider.

Wall Street ready for record high

From John Durie, New York

WALL STREET is poised to reach record highs this week after strong gains last week, including a 2.2 per cent rise on Friday to close at 2,801.58.

This is only 8.57 points from the peak achieved on January 2 this year, and a new wave of optimism in New York could see the record broken this week.

Mr Peter Greenman, Shearson Lehman Hutton vice-president, said: "Interest rates look like they are going lower and the economy is growing moderately."

"These are two very, very bullish ingredients for higher stock prices." The main reasons for last week's euphoria were an easing in inflationary fears, the fact that many institutions had heavy short positions on the equity market, and a late surge of program trading purchases.

The Federal Reserve's open market committee meets tomorrow to consider

whether to change its overnight plunge rate from its present level of 8.25 per cent.

Two weeks ago, Wall Street was convinced the attempt would raise rates slightly, but now it is convinced no change will be necessary.

This was emphasized by the 0.2 per cent gain in the April producer prices index, after the exclusion of food and energy prices.

On Wednesday, the April consumer prices index will be released, with expectations of a rise lower than the 0.5 per cent achieved in March.

While Wall Street appears headed for another rally, some analysts claimed it would be short-lived, and the market could be expected to drift downwards over the next few months.

Mr Dale Tills, the manager of institution sales at Charles Schwab, said:

"What added fuel to the fire was that so many people were short."

It was also noted that the wider Standard & Poor's index, while rising 2.4 per cent on Friday, is still about 2.2 per cent off its peak last October, a sign that only the blue-chip companies have enjoyed last week's rally in the market.

However, Mr Jack Solomon, a technical analyst at Bear Stearns, added: "The market is now travelling on a different rhythm. There is huge cash on the sidelines that may still be waiting for the market to reach 2,810. The numbers are telling us to ride the wave."

Mr Lincoln Anderson, a Bear Stearns economist, said: "Investors are coming around to the opinion that interest rates will move lower and that inflation basically is lower."

US Notebook, page 24

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Buyout trend travels north into the industrial regions

By Rodney Hobson

HALF of Britain's large management buyouts are now taking place outside the traditional South-east area.

Despite the economic downturn and high interest rates, managers in the industrial heartlands are increasingly taking over ownership of their companies, according to 3i, the largest source of venture capital in Britain.

Of 190 buyouts valued at more than £10 million backed by 3i over the past five years, 92 were outside the South-east. About two-thirds took place in the past two years, mainly in Manchester, Leeds, Birmingham and Bristol.

The trend has continued this year, along with the virtual disappearance of deals topping £50 million. Just one was backed by 3i in the first quarter of 1990, while 14 deals were for between £10 million and £50 million.

In the whole of 1989, there were 16 above £50 million and 53 in the lower range. Mr Paul

Waller, a director of 3i, said: "There is an unwillingness of international banks to finance senior debt for very large management buyouts but the supply of equity finance is still there for deals at all levels. It is still possible to raise debt for medium-sized deals."

The main boost has come from parent companies in need of cash selling off peripheral manufacturing subsidiaries. Deals are done because sellers are asking more realistic prices.

In contrast, the South-east has seen a slowdown in buyouts because construction, services and retailing, which had grown fastest around London, have been hit hardest by company crashes.

Mr Waller said: "Where Britain is scoring at the moment is in its efficient manufacturing base. Without a shadow of a doubt, it is better managed and more efficient than it has ever been." He added: "Over the past two to



Waller: a local advantage

three years, we have seen buyout skills sharpened outside London.

"Three years ago, the skills were not there among accountants, lawyers and bankers. Now, the whole regional business community is geared to coping with transactions on a larger scale. It is a strong and sustainable trend."

Mr Waller said it is not a case of buyout specialists moving out of London, but rather that expertise in han-

dling buyouts has been learned in the regions.

This has been a crucial factor in the growth of deals in regions where, 10 years ago, buyouts were more than £10 million were unheard of.

Large management buyouts are time-consuming, with negotiations often stretching to four months. Mr Waller said: "One of the great problems for management teams is that they have to get on with running the business while coping with the distraction of the buyout. The ability to deal locally, rather than come to London is a very real advantage."

"The more venture capitalists, accountants, lawyers and bankers work together, the more they refine their skills. Nobody is having to re-invent the wheel."

While deals rarely top £50 million now, Mr Waller claimed: "Within a year or two, the regions are likely to handle deals worth up to £100 million quite comfortably."

Growth of engineering set to slow

By Colin Narborough

ENGINEERING will outperform many sectors of the economy this year and next, but growth rates will be sharply lower than during the investment boom conditions of 1988 and early last year, Cambridge Econometrics says in its latest forecast.

Its main elements - electrical, mechanical, electronics and instruments - are projected to record a £3 billion trade surplus by the mid-1990s.

But the study concludes that the key areas of weakness in British engineering are all related to investment in equipment, R&D and training, and that failure to address these problems will leave it vulnerable to takeover.

The Engineering Employers' Federation focuses on the same problem in its submission to the House of Lords Committee on Science and Technology, pointing to "serious deficiencies" in Britain's ability to generate innovation on a large enough scale.

ECONOMIC VIEW

How to cut deficits on 'no new taxes' pledge

The long-running soap opera of the US budget deficit seems at last to be colliding with reality. Tomorrow, President Bush will meet Congressional leaders for a summit on how to make progress in cutting the deficit. For the first time, there will be "no preconditions" to the talks.

Ever since the move was announced last week, the President's cheerleaders have been trying to reassure Republicans that the President was not reneging on his "read my lips - no new taxes" pledge. But the betting among officials is that there will have to be some revenue-raising components to any serious attempt to rein back the deficit. An increase in sales taxes, on energy perhaps, is seen as highly probable.

The dimensions of the problem are set by the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Deficit Reduction Act. This states that unless the economy moves into recession, the deficit for the fiscal year, starting on October 1, shall be no more than \$64 billion. To get sufficiently close to that figure to avoid a "sequester" - a statutory across-the-board cut which could severely disrupt public services - now requires a reduction in the planned deficit of about \$50 billion.

In January, the Administration estimated the gap at about \$35 billion, but since then the fiscal position has deteriorated because of lower corporate profits earned in a slowing economy, higher interest rates and a higher stock of debt. The outturn this year is expected to be about \$140 billion (excluding the effect of bailing out Savings and Loan institutions), against the Gramm-Rudman target of \$100 billion.

A cut of \$50 billion in next year's budget deficit is for practical purposes impossible. The "peace dividend", arising from reduced military tension, may yield \$5 billion to \$10 billion. Social programmes like Medicare, which have been Republican targets, are proving harder to pare.

But the arithmetic is confused by two other factors. The first is the S&L fiasco. Under present law, the cost of bailing out thrifts has to be counted as part of the Budget. But even the Congressional Budget Office - the closest thing to a non-partisan player in the budget - thinks this is absurd. It would mean a huge increase in the magnitude of the problem for a year or two (\$40 billion this year) followed by a deceptive tightening of the fiscal position as sales of S&L assets cut the deficit. In any case the money paid out to insolvent thrifts goes straight back into Treasury bills. There is pressure to score only the

interest on borrowings needed for the bail-out as part of the budget.

The second factor is the treatment of social security. The US is building up surpluses on the retirement account to meet the demands of growing numbers of pensioners. There is a bipartisan move in Congress to take the social security account off-budget so the surpluses are not frittered on daily bills. Losing the surplus on social security will in principle exacerbate the problem.

But instead the summerers may try to recast some of the Gramm-Rudman figuring. That could substantially ease the problem by making the targets less ambitious. At the same time, there is a move to tighten up some of the absurdities of the Gramm-Rudman process, for instance by introducing a second review and potential sequester after the fiscal year has started. Now it does not matter how much the deficit exceeds the target so long as it is close enough on the basis of the Administration's forecasts before the year begins.

Sceptics think the whole Gramm-Rudman effort is largely a fraud, which diverts attention from finding ways to get round the law rather than obtain a political majority for deficit reduction. It has certainly given rise to some fertile expedients. But it has also limited the pressure for spending increases and allowed the expansion in the economy gradually to bring the deficit down as a proportion of national income. Even at its revised level, this year's deficit will be no more than half the peak figure of 6.3 per cent of gross national product reached in 1983.

Bringing down the deficit further will reduce the upward pressure on US interest rates and help stabilize exchange rates by creating circumstances in which the US trade deficit can fall.

The immediate outlook is for some moderate increase in the Federal Funds rate as the Federal Reserve Board moves to head off a rise in inflation to just over 5 per cent after 4½ per cent in the fourth quarter of 1989. Any increase in foreign rates will not be good for sterling and could put pressure on the Chancellor to raise interest rates again.

Cutting the deficit would also contribute to the pool of world savings which the International Monetary Fund identified as a priority last week. Increasing private sector savings may be desirable, but increasing public sector savings is easier. The next few weeks may show whether, and to what extent, the US can contribute to this process.

Rodney Lord
Economics Editor

REPORTING THIS WEEK

M&S likely to ring up £590m

TODAY

FINAL pre-tax profits at Marks and Spencer, Britain's biggest retailer which is headed by Lord Rayner, are expected to advance from £532.7 million to £590 million, according to Mr Ian Macdonald at Nomura Research. The figures will benefit from good volume growth and low exposure to cost pressures. Market forecasts range from £575 million to £605 million.

Interim: Holmes & Merchant Group, Imperial Cold Storage & Supply Co, Kwik, Thornton Oriental Income Fund, TMD Advertising Holdings.

Finals: English and International Trust, London American Ventures Trust, Marks and Spencer, New Ireland Holdings, Stratton Investment Trust, Walker Greenstock.

Economic statistics: CBI/FT survey of distributive trades (April), retail sales (April - provisional), producer price index numbers (April - provisional).

TOMORROW

Allied-Lyons, the food and drinks group chaired by Sir Derrick Holden-Brown, is expected to report taxable profits of £560 million for the full year, against £502 million, according to Mr Tim Clarke at Panmure Gordon. Forecasts range from £550 million to £570 million.

A significant contribution from ConsGold will boost profits at Hanson, Lord Hanson's conglomerate. County NatWest WoodMac has pencilled in £570 million for the half-year, compared with £447 million. This is at the top end of forecasts which start at £525 million.

UBS Phillips & Drew expects final pre-tax profits to climb from £375 million to £442 million at Sainsbury (J), the supermarkets chain headed by Lord Sainsbury. This includes £30 million of property profits. Market forecasts, excluding property, range from £410 million to £413 million.

Interim pre-tax profits at Vaux Group, the Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, hotels and



Holden-Brown: profit forecasts for Allied-Lyons range as high as £570 million

brewing group, are expected to expand from £11.9 million to £13.7 million, benefiting from a solid performance by hotels.

Interim: Alexander Holdings, Concor, Dunsin Worldwide Investment Trust, Hanson, Metro Radio Group, Mining & Allied Supplies, Novo-Nordisk (first quarter), Richards, River & Mercantile American Capital & Income Trust, Sedgwick Group, Vaux Group.

Finals: Addison Consultancy Group, Allied-Lyons, Analysis Hockey, Apollo Metals, Sainsbury (J), Vivit Holdings, Warner Howard Group.

Economic statistics: Acquisitions and mergers (first quarter).

WEDNESDAY

Grand Metropolitan, the food and drinks group, is expected to announce interim pre-tax profits of £385 million, against £301 million, according to Mr Colin Davies at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, with forecasts between £365 million and £400 million.

Greenall Whitley, the Warrington, Cheshire, regional brewer and hotels group,

should turn in pre-tax profits of £22.3 million for the half year, against £19.5 million previously.

Interim: Avon Rubber, Baggeridge Brick, Commercial Union Assurance (first quarter), Diploma, Fleming high income investment Trust, Grand Metropolitan, Greenall Whitley, Group Development Capital Trust, Northern Industrial Improvement Trust, Thomson Corporation, Ultramar (first quarter), Warrford Investments.

Finals: Baris Holdings, Gieves Group, Govett American Endeavour Fund.

THURSDAY

Mr Ron Littleboy at Nomura Research is expecting annual pre-tax profits at Whitbread, the brewer chaired by Mr Sam Whitbread, to rise from £223 million to £252 million, including £28 million of property profits. Market forecasts range from £250 million to £260 million.

Full-year replacement cost net income is expected to reach £730 million in the first quarter at Shell Transport and

Trading, compared with £1.11 billion last time, according to BZW. On a historical cost basis, which includes stock profits, BZW expects net income of £690 million, against £1.28 billion, but this is at the lower end of forecasts which rise to £950 million.

Interim: Midsummer Leisure, Rand Mines, River & Mercantile Trust (first quarter), Royal Insurance (first quarter), Shell Group (first quarter), Tomkins.

Finals: Appleby Westward Group, Bank of Ireland, Eastern Produce (Holdings), P&P, Whitbread and Co. Economic statistics: Capital expenditure by the manufacturing industries (first quarter - provisional), public sector borrowing requirement (April), labour market statistics - unemployment and vacancies (April - provisional), average earnings indices (March - provisional), employment, hours, productivity and unit wage costs, industrial disputes.

FRIDAY

Interim: Moran Holdings, Overseas Investment Trust.

Finals: Value and Income Trust.

Philip Pangalos

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Fayeds stay in harness

SPECULATION that Harrods, the "top people's store", might lose both its royal warrant and its banking licence as a direct consequence of the damning report by the Department of Trade and Industry into the Fayeds' takeover of House of Fraser - appears to be ill-founded. Sponsoring the Royal Windsor Horse Show at the weekend for the seventh successive year - and at a cost of some £250,000 a time - Mohammed Al-Fayed, the chairman of Harrods, had extended a personal invitation to the Duke of Edinburgh to attend a cocktail party on the eve of the show in a marquee alongside the showground on Friday night. Prince Philip not only graciously accepted, but he stayed for more than one and half hours - considerably longer than had been anticipated - chatting happily to Mohammed and his brother, Ali. In fact, so long did he linger, with no visible sign of embarrassment, that dinner for the Fayeds' other 60 or so guests - who included Isosceles chairman and former Harrods director Ernest Sharp - was served some 20 minutes behind schedule. Adding further to this royal seal of approval, Geoffrey Cross, the chairman of the Royal Windsor Horse Show Committee, was adamant that the Fayeds' involvement would continue in the future. Addressing Ali, he said: "I anticipate, in fact I know, that this is going on for many years. You have not

actually agreed to it yet but I have asked you to have lunch with me next week and I am sure that this will occur."

● **DISAGREEING** with my claim last week that the apparently never-ending series of anecdotes being proffered by readers was fast deteriorating, Stephen Hall-Jones, the barrister in charge of Ladbroke's legal department, insists that he has "an improvement on the recent batch." He tells of a barrister in practice in the Middle Temple and on the Western circuit, who named his horse Circuit - so that his clerk could legitimately say to solicitors seeking his services, that "counsel was not able to speak to them as he was out on circuit."

Turf-ed out

RACING man David Chapman, who had been head of UK equity sales at Banque Paribas, until it merged its UK and European desks into one and put Dutchman Seno Brill in overall charge, has resigned from the firm and will, I can reveal, be joining a rival French bank - Société Générale Strauss Turnbull. Chapman, aged 41, and a well-known market character, will be working alongside the former Warburg duo David Attard, these days head of sales at SGST, and Julian Burn-Callander. Describing Chapman as a traditional UK equity salesman, Chris Cartwright, head of equities at Paribas, tells me: "Our European strategy obviously doesn't suit everyone and David leaves with our genuine best wishes for the future."

But Chapman, clearly not an impoverished individual, has had other things than just employment contracts on his mind in recent weeks. As a key shareholder in the racing consortium Kennet Valley Thoroughbreds - managed by Harry Herbert, son of Lord Carnarvon, the Queen's racing manager - he was on tenterhooks when one of its horses, Book The Band, was a runner up in the 1,000 Guineas. And former Laurie Milbank partner Chapman - whose fellow Kennet Valley shareholders include Ben Allen, of UBS Phillips & Drew, and David Hatch, once with Simon & Coates - reveals that the consortium has one or two other well fancied nags still to run this season.

● **TALK** about appropriate names... the editorial secretary at the Racing Post is apparently one Sadie Evans.

All aboard

A NEW meaning will shortly apply to the phrase "captive audience." The event in question is the Personal Investment Marketing Show which is corralling 900 financial intermediaries on the cruise liner Canberra for three days in June. They will be unable to escape the beguiling sales talk of their hosts - all of whom have financial products and services to sell them. As for the vendors - well, Peter Jeffreys and Richard Timberlake will also be on board selling their new service, Fund Research Ltd, which analyses just how badly each investment product has performed against its peers.

Serious at Savory

OXFORD rowing blue Giles Vardey, who was short-listed for chief executive at County NatWest - which ultimately went to the present incumbent, Tim Ferguson - has resigned from his subsequent employer, Salomon Brothers, after just eight months. Vardey, aged just 34, will next month become managing director and head of equities in Swiss Bank Corporation's London office. "One doesn't want to move too often," says Vardey, "but there are not many opportunities like this around and when they do come up you have to take a serious look at them." Having started his City career as a bond salesman with Salomon, and come full circle - via County - to his present job as managing director of European equities, convertibles and options back at Salomon, Vardey is aware that one or two City eyebrows will be raised at his choice of move, since Savory Millin, the British broker bought by Swiss Bank Corporation, has been much reduced in size. On that point Vardey - known for owning the most colourful and extensive collection of braces in the City, "I have never seen him in the same pair twice," quips one colleague - takes a remarkably philosophical line. "My English master once said to me: 'If gold rusts, what will iron do?' And in the City a lot of gold is now rusting. I am satisfied that Swiss Bank Corporation has a very clear determination to make it work, with a balanced business."

Carol Leonard



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USM REVIEW

New chief at Beaverco as diversified group looks for strong recovery

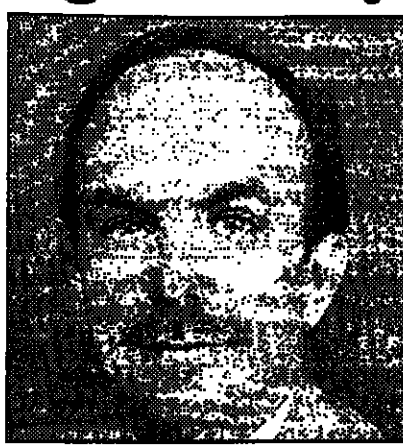
BEAVERCO, the USM-quoted mini-conglomerate based in Derbyshire, today completes the restructuring of its management team with the announcement of a new chief executive.

Mr Andrew Staniland, aged 37, joins a company involved in the manufacture of foam for the furniture industry, in specialist consumer products ranging from garden furniture to exercise equipment, and in noise-control materials for use in factories. He arrives from Tootal Group, where he was chief executive of Tootal Homewares. He was previously managing director of Osman Textiles and, before that, a director of Tootal Textiles and a strategic planning executive at Daf Trucks.

Beaverco, which floated on the USM in June, 1986, announced the appointment of a new financial controller, Mr Peter Hodgson, in February. The company — the first European manufacturer of foam not to use environmentally harmful chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) — has been badly hit by a price war in the foam industry which has affected both its profitability and its share price.

Its shares have fallen from 36p last July to about 130p now, and its figures for the year to end-March, due in June, are now expected to show profits of £1.4 million — a figure that the company should comfortably manage, even though it has been drastically scaled down from earlier City forecasts of £2.8 million.

But City followers are looking for a



Staniland: new chief executive strong recovery in the year to March 1991 with pre-tax profits of about £2.5 million. This recovery in growth is expected to come largely from the consumer products division.

"What the investor has not recognized is that we're not what we were when we came to the market," said Mr John Lewis, chairman. "When we came to the market, we were just in foam, catering for the furniture industry. Since then, our turnover has gone from £15 million to £60 million, and of that increase, £45 million has come from non-foam activities. When we came to the market, we stated that that was our plan, but people seem to have forgotten."

Carol Leonard

Going public helps Baris

BARIS Holdings, the fire protection and dry-lining specialist, is about to unveil its first full-year figures since joining the USM in November, and they are unlikely to disappoint.

The group forecast pre-tax profits for the year to February 28 of not less than £1.6 million, up from £691,000 the year before. Mr Robert Smith, chairman, is also likely to take the opportunity to please shareholders with news of contracts that should boost earnings.

Mr Smith estimated that since coming to market Baris has won contracts totalling £5 million — work that it might not have secured had it remained private.

He said: "The standing comment is that with this size of order, blue-chip companies would not want to place it with a two-bit outfit. They would sooner see it go to a company with substance."

Baris has benefited from the move towards better fire-proofing in the wake of the King's Cross disaster. Its biggest such contract so far is for the old Daily Telegraph building in Fleet Street — the

new home of Goldman Sachs, the US securities house. Mr Smith estimated the contract's value at almost £1.5 million. A similar-sized project for Baris is work on Glaxo's new headquarters at Stevenage, Hertfordshire. The group has also landed contracts for pier four at Gatwick airport — from Shepherd Construction — and for Twickenham's North Stand from Mowlem, worth about £300,000 each.

Opening a regional office in Glasgow has already reaped rewards, with Baris having completed contracts in the leisure, commercial and industrial areas.

"We have also opened an office in Spain, where we have pitched for a project for the Barcelona Olympics. We should know the result in a couple of weeks," Mr Smith said.

Baris joined the USM in a placing at 142p by County NatWest WoodMac. The shares closed on Friday at 168p. Mr Smith, unlike some, has no regrets about going public.

Michael Clark

UNLISTED SECURITIES

22.00 ASD	75	0.4	43	6.0	8.3	2.7900 GC Roofing	29	0.2	23	7.9	8.0	8.0000 Microtec	31	0.2	2.0	6.5	10.0
22.00 ATA Selection	75	0.4	43	7.7	8.8	2.7900 GC Roofing	29	0.2	23	7.9	8.0	8.0000 Microtec	31	0.2	2.0	6.5	10.0
22.00 Aberdeen Port	75	0.4	43	7.7	8.8	2.7900 GC Roofing	29	0.2	23	7.9	8.0	8.0000 Microtec	31	0.2	2.0	6.5	10.0
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The sun rises on a changed society

Like a conjuror's assistant who is seen in half and run through with sabres only to emerge unscathed and beaming, Japan has a knack of absorbing the most juddering shocks to its system with barely a scratch or a murmur.

The Japanese economy seems to thrive in the face of setbacks. Political scandals come and go without loosening the Liberal Democrats' postwar grip on power. Japan's society freely mixes kimono with computers, maintaining an insularity that has withstood decades of "Westernization". Politically, the country is firmly in the Western camp, but its ways remain a mystery to even its closest allies.

But after a year of political, financial and social turmoil, people are wondering whether Japan, a country which always seems to be hovering tantalizingly at the crossroads of change, is finally making a move.

It has certainly been offered plenty of opportunities to rethink its course. A huge bribery scandal brought pandemonium to politics. Relations with the United States began to curdle because of Washington's frustration over America's large and unshakable trade deficit with Tokyo, and because of American hostility towards take-overs of US icons such as Columbia Pictures and the Rockefeller Center, in New York. The convulsions in eastern Europe have left Japan, the only Western power still frosty towards Mikhail Gorbachev, wondering where it fits into the post-cold war order.

Probably none of these sent as many shivers of panic and self-doubt through the country as the recent collapse of the Tokyo stock market — the main measure, for many Japanese, of their country's economic vitality. It was a jolt that shocked most Japanese even more than it did the many foreigners who had convinced themselves that Japan had found a way to defy the laws of economics. A stock market collapse is a headache for any country, but it was a nightmare for a nation that has put all its efforts since the Second World War into becoming economically successful.

Have none of these thunderbolts left any scars? There are a

The recent collapse of the Tokyo stock exchange, coming on top of social and political turmoil, has prompted many Japanese to question whether all the hard work, the long commutes and short holidays are worth the effort, Joe Joseph reports

few, although even they may soon be too slight to notice. But the troubles of the Tokyo stock market — which has lost about a quarter of its worth so far this year, or more than the value of all the shares on the London stock exchange — and the weakening of the yen will probably change attitudes in Japan more than most of the country's other recent shocks.

At first, most Japanese were



Tradition still flourishes: an attendant at a Shinto shrine

bailed. After all, share prices had been zooming upwards for the past 12 years, and there seemed little reason for them suddenly to stop. Then they felt cheated, robbed overnight of something for which they had worked for all their lives.

Older Japanese took it as proof that Japan must work harder still to ensure that it never returns to the rubble that was Japan after the war. Their children, brought up with Rolexes rather than rationing, saw it more as evidence of the

foolishness of all work and no play. As melodramatic Japanese editorial writers warned that the sun was setting on Japan's golden age, and that within a just a few years the famous, life-sustaining trade surpluses would vanish, many Japanese felt they were about to begin a slide into poverty without ever having enjoyed the fruits of their success.

They looked once more at their modest apartments and their long commutes to their offices. They thought about their society — in which the average mortgage would leave most Europeans feeling weak at the knees; in which Sunday in the park is more crowded than the London Underground at rush hour; in which, except for the more wealthy company directors and political bigwigs, a game of golf is an annual treat; in which a bizarre distribution system ensures that even Japanese goods are pricier in Tokyo than they are in London or New York — and they wondered whether the time had come for a change of priorities.

Nor was it the first time these doubts had arisen. "It is questionable whether Japan's economic growth is reflected in the quality of Japanese life," Haruo Mackawa, former Governor of the Bank of Japan, said back in 1987, when he was commissioned to report on ways to improve the situation. "Housing standards are low, the cost of living high and working hours long."

There have since appeared more red Mercedes coupes on Tokyo streets and more Louis Vuitton bags on women's shoulders, but for most Japanese, things have not improved. Seven out of 10 Japanese do not feel affluent.

The stock market upheaval has refocused attention on the gulf between Japan's bank balance and



Faces of change: young people in Japan are rejecting their parents' lifestyle for one of greater leisure; Tokyo's subway in peak hours often resembles a monument to the work ethic



the quality of life of the mass of Japanese. If the older generation has grown used to long working days, short holidays and cramped apartments, their children are no longer so tolerant.

They hear economists such as Kenneth Courtis, of the Tokyo office of Deutsche Bank, predicting that Japan's economy will brush off the stock market's worries and will continue to boom, and that by the turn of the century Japan's per capita gross national product will be about 50

per cent higher than that of the US, and they see room to relax.

Forced by Japan's dizzy land prices to give up any hope of buying a house, younger Japanese are spending their savings on having more fun. Newly graduated job-seekers are less keen to devote their entire working lives to one company, or all their evenings to entertaining their company's clients.

Although it is not yet a revolution in lifestyles, the move towards greater leisure is probably

the most noticeable change in Japan today. In other areas, however, life in Japan seems to have absorbed the jolts of the past 12 months and reverted, for the most part, to business as usual. Once again, Japan-US relations have unravelled and been patched up — until the next time.

Officials from Tokyo and Washington have just thrashed out a series of deals designed to open up Japan's market and thereby trim America's trade deficit with Japan. It is the latest in a string of

such packages stretching back years. Economically, it will probably have as little effect as its predecessors, although politically it allows both governments to claim peace with honour.

Japanese politics are also likely to emerge little affected by last year's turmoil. The Recruit bribery scandal, in which a pushy businessman sprinkled cash among top politicians and bureaucrats, felled the Prime Minister of the time, Noboru Takeshita. It also triggered much soul-searching and unleashed a deluge of criticism of Japan's outdated, money-hungry political machinery.

But the Recruit affair was barely mentioned in the general election in February, and certainly did not prevent the re-election of the Liberal Democrats or of the MPs tainted by the scandal.

The downfall last summer of Sosuke Uno, Mr Takeshita's successor, over his extra-marital affairs with bar girls gave angry women a louder voice on the political scene, and helped to hoist Takako Doi, the clever and charismatic leader of Japan's opposition Socialists, into the headlines.

But already Miss Doi is yesterday's news. The idea of a woman Prime Minister in Japan's male-dominated society once again seems as far-fetched as the idea that the Socialists could ever kick out of office the conservative Liberal Democrats, in power for 35 years.

But if stability-loving Japan is pleased to return to business as usual at home, it is not so keen to stick with its sheepish image abroad. Once happy to stay rich and out of sight, Japan now seems eager to add its voice to international decision-making. It represents accusations that its diplomacy and its decisions on foreign aid — Japan is the world's second biggest aid donor, after the US — are geared only to its own financial needs.

The changes in eastern Europe, the birth of the integrated European market, the new chumminess between Moscow and Washington, have all convinced Japan that it must speak up about how these changes will affect the world, if only to make sure that Japan is not left out in the cold.

Toshiki Kaifu, the new Prime Minister, has been travelling the world to make it clear that Japan is not just interested in writing the cheques, but wants a say in how the changing world develops.

But Japan is paying for its years of silence. It is not known for its bold diplomatic initiatives, especially in areas outside its backyard in Asia. All the big Western powers acknowledge Japan has a part to play, but so far it is still having some difficulty getting its voice heard.

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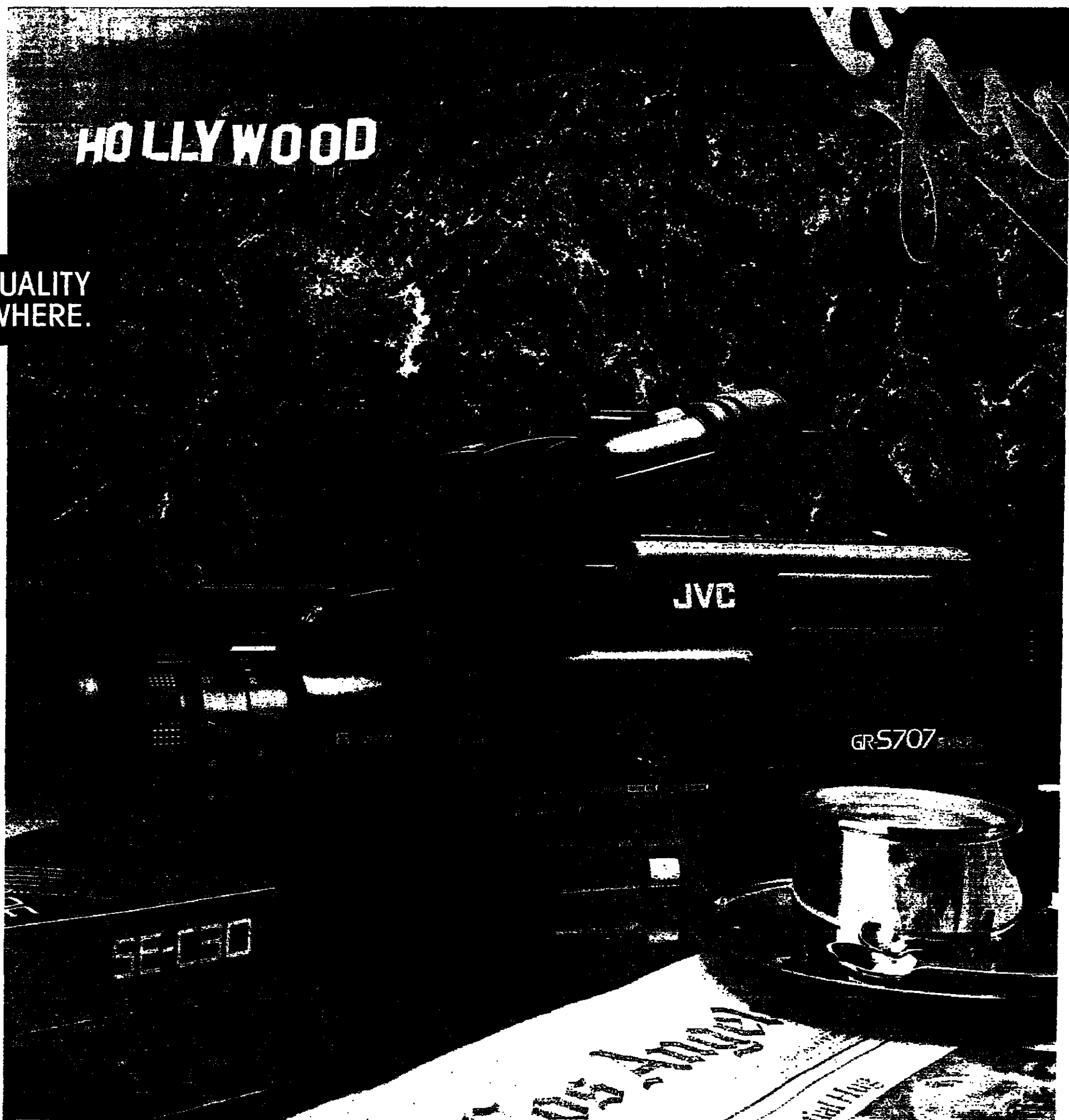
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Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu looks set for a surprisingly long innings, writes Joe Joseph

'Night-watchman' in form

Just a few weeks ago, notwithstanding the Government's huge victory in February's general elections, bookmakers would have offered long odds against Toshiki Kaifu lasting much longer as Japan's prime minister.

Even his closest friends might have advised him, tactfully, not to bother ruining his diary by inking in a rendezvous with other world leaders at this summer's Houston summit. The plane ticket would be in someone else's name.

But Mr Kaifu has taken to his new job, and looks as though he may be able to keep it for a while after all. Brought in last August as night watchman to defend the crease after the fiasco of the Recruit bribery scandal had felled the big hitters of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, Mr Kaifu is proving to be a craftier batsman than anyone imagined.

His longevity has given hope to those Japanese who have been trying to ensure that the Recruit affair does not become the latest of a string of postwar political bribery scandals that hit the headlines for a few weeks but leave few scars.

When the results of the February 18 election came in, there were certainly few grounds for hope. Not only was the LDP, in power since 1955, back in office, but every MP whose pockets had been lined by Recruit, a pushy information group that tried very hard to buy friends in high places, was re-elected.

Noboru Takeshita, who was forced to resign as prime minister a year ago over his links to the Recruit mess, remains the most powerful man in Japanese politics, running the country by remote control. It was Mr Takeshita who picked Mr Kaifu as a seat-warmer in August when Sotoku Uno, his first choice, was brought down because of his weakness for bar girls.

On February 19, Mr Kaifu woke up to read both of his party's triumph at the polls and of his colleagues' moves to ditch him and install his successor. Shintaro Abe, one of the LDP's elders and the man next in line for the premier's job in accordance with an agreement worked out long ago with Mr Takeshita, was already practising his acceptance speech.

As one member of Mr Abe's faction put it at the time: "We can bring down Kaifu any time we want. We are waiting for the most



Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu: set to keep his job for a while

'Cynics say Mr Takeshita has identified an opportunity for his own return to centre stage'



Noboru Takeshita: in the wings

appropriate time to launch such a move. We don't want the public to see us as villains preying on a weak Kaifu." But Mr Abe's acolytes are less noisy nowadays.

Mr Kaifu has proved to be stronger and more clever than his rivals expected. Lacking a power base of his own within the LDP, Mr Kaifu went over the heads of the LDP's barons and made his case directly to the people.

Helping him was the President of the United States, George Bush,

who arranged a high-profile summit in California soon after the elections in which he urged Mr Kaifu to ditch the bad old ways of Japanese politics — in which laws are designed by bureaucrats who often have a vested interest in changing little — and to show bold political leadership in moving to resolve trade disputes that were souring Japan-US relations.

Unshackled by obligations to this or that interest group, Mr Kaifu, an eloquent speaker, had

little to lose. He argued that American requests — for freer trade, for a less multi-layered distribution system, for the opening of large supermarkets and department stores that had more room for imports and which could offer a rival service to overpriced corner stores — would benefit Japanese consumers.

The argument struck a chord at a time when many Japanese, left out of the land price boom that has created a new millionaire class in a traditionally middle-class society, were suddenly feeling poor and cheated.

Mr Takeshita and Mr Abe had been waiting for the inexperienced Mr Kaifu, whose only Cabinet service before being plucked from obscurity last autumn was a stint as education minister, to stumble over his dealings with Washington to ease him out of office. Poor US-Japan relations can mean the end for a Japanese leader.

But the LDP's *ancien régime* miscalculated badly. When Mr Bush announced that "the leadership of Prime Minister Kaifu has brought a new spirit of co-operation to our relationship", Mr Kaifu's already rising popularity at home swelled further.

The current political wisdom is that Mr Kaifu has earned a longer tenure. He will be able to shake

hands at Houston after all. But that does not mean Japan has entered a new era in which politicians in their fifties, such as Mr Kaifu, can seriously aspire to high office, or in which politicians become imaginative policymakers rather than rubber-stampers of their civil servants' ideas, or in which the warlords who rule the LDP become yesterday's men.

The embarrassing revelations of the Recruit scandal have done little to change money's central influence on Japanese politics. February's election, run on the old principle that cash still wins seats, probably cost the LDP at least 200 billion yen. Despite Mr Kaifu's triumphs, he still rules only because Mr Takeshita lets him.

Why is Mr Takeshita being so generous? Cynics say that with Mr Abe, who is anyway in poor health, looking less and less like Japan's next Prime Minister, Mr Takeshita has begun to see an opportunity for his own return to centre stage in a year or two. Perhaps Japanese politics have not changed that much after all.



The way forward: Japan's Toshiki Kaifu and US President George Bush discuss trade relations

Balancing relations with US

How to find a happy, diplomatic medium

technological excellence, has been articulated most forcefully in the best-selling book, *The Japan that can say No*, co-authored by Shintaro Ishihara, a maverick Liberal Democratic Party politician, and Akio Morita, the chairman of Sony, which castigates the Americans for their racist and myopic attitudes.

Yet, at the same time, the Japanese are slowly, if rather uncertainly, grasping that they are now expected, not least by the Americans, to contribute more to the international political and security order.

The trade imbalance has long been the nub of tension in the bilateral relationship. But recently the Americans have become disturbed by the wave of large-scale and high-prestige Japanese investments (of which Sony's acquisition of Columbia Pictures and Mitsubishi's controlling share of the Rockefeller Center have been the most controversial) and by signs that Japan has gained the edge in several hi-tech areas.

There have been the tortuous negotiations over the past year over the collaborative development of the FSX fighter and the structural economic barriers.

The partial re-negotiation of a deal on the co-development of a new advanced Japanese fighter aircraft, demanded after some senior Bush Administration officials criticized the original technology transfer provisions, reflected a US fear that Japan, having achieved dominance in a

number of other hi-tech sectors, was about to target the aviation industry. The result was to amplify feelings of economic nationalism in both countries.

The structural impediments initiative (SII) negotiations were conceived as yet another way to tackle the trade imbalance. They were intended to be a "two-way street", as President Bush himself said, but in practice they have closely followed the traditional ritual of the Japanese making concessions after heavy American pressure.

Faced with the prospect of being named for the second year running under the "super 301" provisions of the Omnibus Trade Act (a spectre which has now faded), the Japanese grudgingly came to a series of sector-specific market-opening agreements and, more significantly, endorsed in early April an interim SII agreement on reducing broader structural barriers.

But the Japan-US relationship is as much about political and security co-operation as it is about economic interdependence.

Certainly, the Japanese Government's massive overseas development aid and its funding support for the Third World debt reduction programmes of Nicholas Brady, the US Treasury Secretary, do contribute to this sharing of responsibilities.

But in Japan there is both a reluctance to acknowledge too openly the strategic implications and a resentment that Japan often ends up picking up the bill for US priorities.

Moreover, for all Mr Kaifu's attempts to respond to the idea of James Baker, the US Secretary of State, of a "global partnership", in political and security terms the Japanese still tend to think regionally rather than globally.

Brian Bridges

● The author is director of *Jati International*.

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Number (1)

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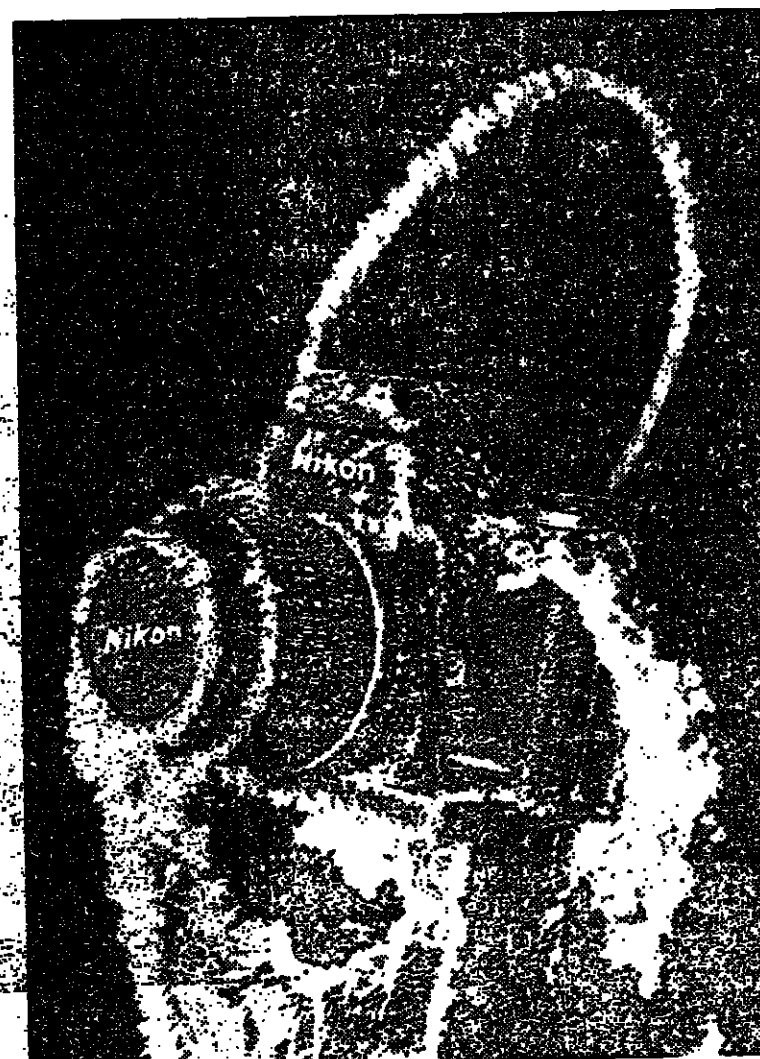
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The economic enigma survives

The Japanese economy, which is still the one that most developing countries want to emulate — and which sets the industrial standards for Britain to try to match — has had an unmistakable air of crisis about it recently.

The Tokyo stock market has pulled out of its free fall of early spring, but nervousness remains. The yen has been the weakest of the major currencies this year, prompting a call by Ryutaro Hashimoto, the finance minister, for joint action by the leading industrial countries to stabilize it.

The response to this request came at the meeting of the Group of Seven (the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada) in Paris on April 7. The G7 finance ministers and central bankers warned of the "undesirable consequences" of the yen's weakness, and promised to keep it under review. Perhaps it was the novelty of Japan's request, or simply unstated satisfaction among countries whose normal role it is to take the begging bowl along to such

Although the yen has weakened and inflation is rising, Japan still has an economy most countries would willingly exchange for their own, says

David Smith

meetings, that the response was not stronger.

In early May, when the G7 met again, this time in Washington, members were pleased to note that the yen had stabilized, but they were still of the view that its continued low level would make it harder to cut the Japanese trade surplus, and its main counterpart — the US trade deficit.

The yen's unaccustomed

weakness, and the nervous mood that has prevailed for much of this year in the Tokyo stock and bond markets, have their roots in several related economic fears.

The strongest of these is inflation. The Japanese have, over the years, become accustomed to sky-high land prices. In the cities, they have accepted that the purchase of a house or flat may require a mortgage with a repayment term that stretches for two or three generations. Real estate in central Tokyo is the most expensive in the world.

This year concern has been growing about these rising land prices, both because of their inflationary impact and the danger that the Japanese property market represents an enormous speculative bubble that could burst with disastrous economic consequences.

The reason why land prices have become an important economic issue in Japan, after years during which their rise was regarded as a fact of life, owes much to Yasushi Mieno, who became governor of the Bank of Japan last December. He soon made clear that land-



Air of crisis: the stock market has stabilized but there is still a feeling of nervousness

price inflation was one of the chief concerns in the situation he had inherited. Mr Mieno could point to a number of other worries, including too rapid a rate of growth of the money supply, and the pressures on industrial capacity, resulting from the pace of Japan's economic expansion. Rapid economic growth in Japan was nothing new. The difference this time was that it was accompanied by a

strengthening of expectations among Japanese workers and consumers.

Successive Japanese leaders, tired of ear-bashings about their protected home market at international gatherings, and worried about tit-for-tat protectionist legislation by, in particular, the US Congress, had urged the population to spend more, notably on imported goods.

The Westernization of the

Japanese consumer has taken time, but it is now taking effect. The Japanese are saving less and spending more on imports. The current account surplus is not about to disappear, but it is definitely shrinking. In the last fiscal year, which ended on March 31, the surplus was \$53.5 billion (£32 billion), compared with \$77.3 billion in the previous year.

Meanwhile, Japanese work-

ers are acting more like their counterparts in Europe and the US. Their response to rising prices and labour shortages is to seek higher pay settlements.

The Tokyo financial markets, and in particular the market for government bonds, have picked up the inflationary warning signals and reacted accordingly. What has added to their concern has been the inability of the Bank of Japan and the ministry of finance to agree on the correct response to such warnings. Under Mr Mieno, the official discount rate has been raised on two occasions — on Christmas Day last year, and on March 20. The latter increase, by 1 percentage point, took the rate to 5.25 per cent.

On each occasion, however, the increase was only announced after public disagreement had surfaced between the bank and the ministry, with the latter taking the view that inflation worries have been exaggerated and concerned about the impact of the rising cost of borrowing on the popularity of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Outside LDP circles, the fear is that if there is an inflationary time bomb ticking away in the Japanese economy, then the Bank of Japan will be constrained from taking action to prevent it from exploding.

This was another reason why members of the G7 were unwilling to come to the aid of

Japan in its hour of difficulties over the yen. Finance ministry and central bank officials in Europe and the US believe that Japan is experiencing the inflationary pain resulting from economic and financial liberalization, just as they did in the 1980s. The inference is that, just as Europe and the US had to take hard decisions by raising interest rates sharply, so too must Japan.

As always, however, Japan represents something of an economic enigma. Inflation worries there are, but even the gloomiest of forecasters do not expect prices to rise at an annual rate of more than 3 per cent over the next two years. The economy may be running into capacity constraints, but business investment is strong and Japan has adapted and adjusted to much more difficult economic challenges in the past — the two oil crises of the 1970s and early 1980s being cases in point.

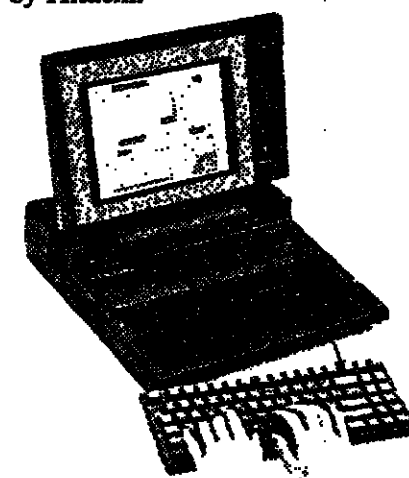
The risk of Japan's economy being beached by protectionist action abroad has diminished. Not only is the trade surplus shrinking (although the yen's fall makes the continuation of this decline less certain than it was), but the clumsily named structural impediments initiative (SII) talks between Japan and the US have reduced the risk of pre-emptive action on trade by Washington.

There are undoubted problems for the Japanese economy, but they are ones that many countries would willingly exchange for their own.

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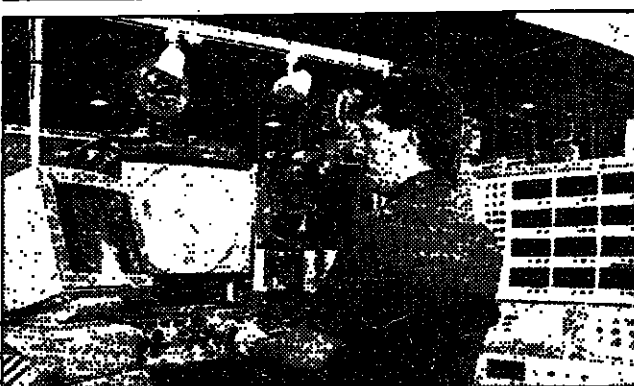


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At the forefront: Sony set up in Britain in 1974

Springboard into the single market

Japan is stepping up its already strong manufacturing investments in Britain

The zip maker, YKK, was the first Japanese company to set up manufacturing in Britain, in 1972. Two years later Sony began what was to turn into a tide of Japanese consumer electronics specialists coursing into this country (Derek Harris, Industrial Editor, writes).

Now the Japanese are sweeping in on many manufacturing fronts, from Nissan in cars to Mizuno in golf clubs, as well as moving into property and finance.

One estimate is that Japanese companies are likely to create an extra 4,500 manufacturing jobs by the middle of next year and another 2,000 in finance, property development and import and export businesses. The estimate comes from the London research group, Economic Development Briefing, which believes that over the past five years Japanese manufacturers have trebled their UK workforce to nearly 30,000.

There are an estimated 600 Japanese businesses operating in Britain, while the Invest in Britain Bureau lists 118 Japanese manufacturers as having established themselves. During the 1970s and the early part of the 1980s the annual flow into Britain of Japanese manufacturers was running in single figures, but in 1986 the number rose to 14, and that was followed by a big jump to 31 in 1987 as the Japanese began increasingly to look to Britain as a springboard into Europe and especially into the European Community's now looming single market. In 1988 sixteen came in, and 1989 saw another 26.

The manufacture of consumer electronics goods is strongly established in Britain, especially in south Wales. There are more than 25 Japanese electronics companies here, employing about 20,000 people and representing a collective investment of about £1.3 billion by the end of last year. This is well over a doubling in three years. Some, such as Matsushita, have several factories operating.

The investment level in turning out goods such as television sets and video cassette recorders is expected to rise to about £1.7 billion by 1994, according to the Electronic Industries Association of Japan. The association believes that Britain is likely to remain a favoured location for Japanese electronics companies and could well be used if, as is likely, Japanese companies move in to exploit the freeing up of telecommunications.

Sharp, the Japanese electronics company with two manufacturing plants in Britain, is to establish a European centre for research and development in Oxford. It could help deflect the criticisms

sometimes levelled against the Japanese presence in Britain as providing only "screw-driver" branch plants.

Construction of the centre is expected to start later this year at Magdalen College's newly launched Oxford Science Park. Sharp is putting in start-up funding of £10 million.

Pioneer is due to open a £17 million audio and video machines factory at Wakefield, West Yorkshire, in May next year.

Two initiatives that have caught the headlines, because of the size of investments needed and the numbers of jobs created, are Nissan's new operational car manufacturing plant in the north-east and Toyota's planned car plant for Burnaston, in Derbyshire.

A feature of Nissan's UK operations is the £31 million research centre, which will design models for the European market. The centre will have a twin base, at Cranfield in Bedfordshire and at Sunderland, near Nissan's Washington manufacturing plant. The Washington plant employs more than 2,500 people and by 1992 is due to create a further 2,500 jobs.

The north-east has been attracting Japanese companies on the pattern already found in south Wales and Scotland. NSK, in ball bearings, was an early north-east recruit. Others include Komatsu in earth-moving equipment and Sanyo, Fujitsu, the Japanese computer manufacturer, is building a £200 million semiconductor factory near Darlington, County Durham, which could create up to 2,000 jobs.

A third Japanese force in UK car production is Honda, which has close links with Rover, now part of British Aerospace (BAe). Honda and Rover each have a 20 per cent stake in the other, and Honda is making a big contribution to Rover design. Honda is establishing a factory at Swindon, Wiltshire, to turn out both makes of car.

Component makers are following in the wake of the car makers. Koyo Seiko, the Japanese ball bearing maker, which is the third largest in the world, is planning the start of production next year at its first European manufacturing centre, at Barnsley, West Yorkshire. Koyo is a big supplier of automotive bearings, and the new £50 million facility will be about half-way between the Nissan and Toyota factories.

Japanese property investment in Britain has also been growing. Jones Lang Wootton, the chartered surveyors and property consultants, say it accounted for more than 40 per cent of property investment in the City of London last year.

Anarchy in the theatre

Theatre in Japan is returning to the masses. It is lavish, performed at break-neck speed and ridiculously funny

One of the most popular productions in Tokyo last Christmas was *The Great General's War* — *Noda Version*, performed by the Yume no Yuminsha company and directed by Hideki Noda, also writer and chief actor (Lesley Downer writes).

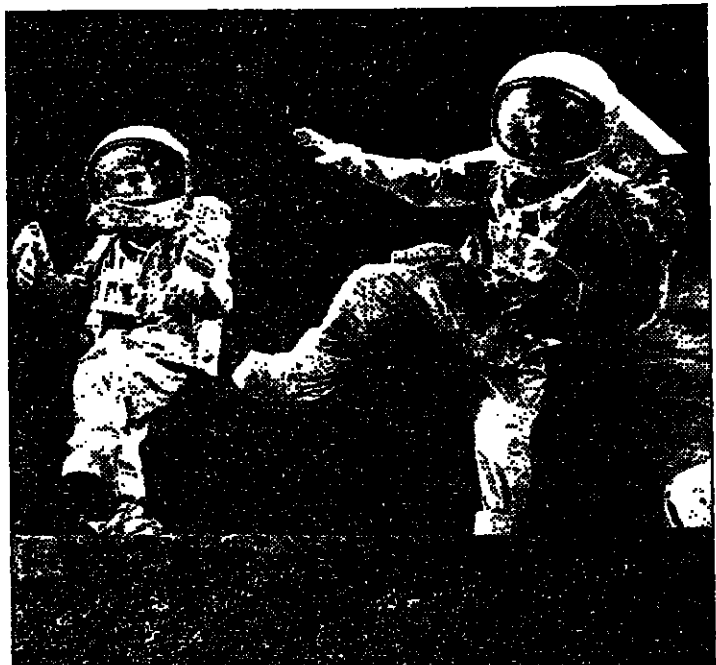
It is a magnificent, bewildering, madcap spectacle, with a plot which defies résumé, encompassing elements of myth and fairytale — the beginning of the world, the legendary birth of Japan, good queens, bad queens, babies exchanged at birth, mistaken identities — and a dialogue which seems to consist of puns, obscure references and manic jokes, all delivered at such breakneck speed that even Japanese speakers are hard put to catch it all.

The title is a reference to the 14-hour Kabuki play, *The Great General's War*. But aficionados of the original might have difficulty recognizing it, and the production is for a generation altogether different from the Kabuki audiences — the comic-book generation, which picks up culture magpie fashion, hopping from one television channel to another.

Noda and Katsuhiko Hibino, the set designer, are part of this generation, and part of a movement which is producing an anarchic contemporary culture in Japan, characterized by lightness, immediacy and humour.

Hibino is a graphic artist with superstar status. His set is all wild scrawls of paint and colour, and the action takes place at fever pitch — endless wild antics, acrobatics and visual jokes; one famous Kabuki character, for example, who always wears a necklace of pompoms, appears here decked out in toilet rolls.

Despite the odd take-off of classic Kabuki scenes and the actors' propensity to strike mock Kabuki poses, the play is a long way from traditional Japanese theatre. The name of the company, Yume no Yuminsha, means something like "The Dreaming Idlers", and Noda says he gets some of his best ideas while asleep.



Outrageous: Yume no Yuminsha in Edinburgh in 1987

Apart from that, the name is hardly apposite. Noda insists that his troupe work out several hours every day, practising aerobics, dance, acrobatics and meditation.

Hibino does not work for galleries, the preserve of the old and wealthy. Instead his work appears in theatres, magazines, advertisements, discos, even on the sides of buses, where it can be seen by the masses.

The demand for accessibility has also infected the traditional Kabuki theatre. The leader of the rebellion is the Kabuki master, Ennosuke Ichikawa. Kabuki originated as entertainment for the masses, as opposed to the grand Noh theatre, the preserve of the samurai. But gradually the intelligentsia took over; traditions stultified and audiences declined.

Ennosuke has revived many of the elements of original Kabuki: a good story line, plenty of action, humour, spectacle and, above all, stunts. His speciality is flying. His audiences come not to wallow in pathos or to be roused by some stirring moment in Japanese history, but to cheer his dazzling transformations of role and costume, and his split-second acrobatics — and above all to see him rise gracefully above the stage and soar off to the gods.

Early Ennosuke consisted of Kabuki plays embellished and enlivened. One memorable scene involved a *seppuku* (ritual suicide), a waterfall, and hundreds of

gallons of water which turned blood red while the hero declaimed his (extremely lengthy) death speech; another was Ennosuke's transformation from samurai to magic flying fox, which then takes off into the auditorium.

Recently he has been moving further from the Kabuki traditions. First came *Super Kabuki* and *Yamato Takeru*, the story of Japan's legendary hero and his doomed quest to subdue a rebellious mountain god.

The story may sound like standard Kabuki fare, but Ennosuke's production was pure spectacle, outrageously lavish, with costumes by Issey Miyake, a leading fashion designer, amplified background music instead of the traditional plucking of the *shamisen*, and a finale which brought the audience to its feet as Ennosuke, as the prince, took off like a bird.

Ennosuke's productions are far more decorous than Noda's, though his most recent venture rather shocked the Kabuki establishment — a joint venture with the Peking Opera, *The Dragon King*, with Ennosuke declaiming Chinese dialogue and the Chinese actors striking melodramatic Kabuki poses.

● Hideki Noda's *Yume no Yuminsha* will perform at the Edinburgh Festival this year. Ennosuke Ichikawa, who had full houses at Sadlers Wells in 1987, will return to Britain in 1991.

Leslie Downer looks at how myths and pottery have moulded the history of Kyushu island

Kyushu — Japan's southern island — is where the story of Japan begins. A few millennia ago, when the sun goddess sent her grandson, Ninigi, down to rule the newly created Japanese islands, Mount Takachiho, in central Kyushu, was where he chose to descend.

These days Kyushu has a second reputation: as "Silicon Island", home to almost 50 per cent of Japan's hi-tech industry. The city of Fukuoka, where most visits to Kyushu begin, has considerably more of the hi-tech about it than the mythical.

Six hours from Tokyo on the new, improved Bullet Train (which features a double-decker restaurant car, where one sits as if on a magic carpet, sipping coffee and watching the landscape skim by below), it is far enough away to have developed into a cultural centre in its own right, rather than simply a satellite of Tokyo.

Fukuoka is full of sleek, streamlined buildings, such as the IMS Building, which is gleaming and gold-plated, or Il Palazzo, designed by Aldo Rossi, the Italian architect, and hidden, for some reason, in an obscure suburb of the city. At night the streets are brilliant with neon, and well-dressed crowds wander from one tiny bar to another.

But once out of the city, the magic of rural Japan begins to reassert itself. Saga, the prefecture south-west of Fukuoka, is a peaceful land of craggy wooded hills and plains checkered with paddy fields, in November a patchwork of variegated brown squares; and it is the setting of the Ureshino hot springs, which rise in the hills west of Saga and are famous for their curative powers.

It is the home of three of Japan's most important pottery towns, Karatsu, Imari and Arita. Kyushu is the part of Japan closest to Korea, and over the centuries it has served as a door through which a stream of people and ideas has travelled from the Asian continent to Japan. Many scholars believe that the Japanese people originated in Korea and migrated to Japan through Kyushu; which perhaps explains why Ninigi, in the myth, descended there.

Certainly, it is no coincidence that some of Japan's finest pottery is produced in Kyushu. The Japanese have always admired the strong lines and simple shapes of Korean pottery. Over the centuries many Korean potters were captured and forced to settle here under duress, particularly during the notorious Pottery Wars of the 16th century.

Karatsu, on the coast near Fukuoka, was once a great trading



Porcelain in the making: Arita is known for its delicate stoneware painted in brilliant colours

The birthplace of a nation and its art

port, where ships departed for China and Korea and returned laden with precious pots and sometimes potters. Nowadays it is a sleepy town and fairly undistinguished; but of the three wares, Karatsu is my favourite — fat, satisfying, chunky stoneware, glazed with local ashes in subtle tones of grey and brown, very similar, in fact, to Korean stoneware.

The ware produced in Imari and Arita, south of Karatsu, is completely different: the finest porcelain, milky white, painted with intricate designs in brilliant colours.

Arita is the less picturesque of the two, a sprawling town, bristling with chimneys, entirely given over to pottery production. But the village of Imari looks everything that a pottery village should — a struggle of whitewashed half-timbered houses, disappearing into the trees at the foot of

towering crags, with the occasional chimney visible among the vegetable fields. A single road climbs through the village, lined with small pottery shops.

For the captive Korean potters who once lived here, on the other hand, this little village, miles from anywhere, hemmed in by hills, must have seemed more like a prison.

Until recently, visitors came to Saga for the pottery. But early last year the quiet province became the scene of great excitement. Ever since, visitors have been arriving by the busload to tramp around an obscure undulating site in the middle of the Saga plain.

Written records in Japan begin in the eighth century, in the eighth century. But long before that, in the third century, Chinese travellers were writing of a kingdom called Yamataikoku and of its queen, Himiko. She was a shamaness and magician, and

lived in a heavily guarded palace. Of her thousand attendants and slaves, only one was a man. When she died, a huge burial mound was built for her and more than 100 slaves were killed and buried with her.

For years scholars have argued over the exact location of Yamataikoku or whether it existed at all. Then, in 1988, archaeologists began to excavate a hillock in the Saga plain and uncovered traces of a city. Buried in the hillock they found urns with human skeletons curled inside, swords, necklaces and fragments of pottery; and visitors can see the finds in a small museum, as well as touring the site.

It cannot be said for certain that this was Yamataikoku, but if it was, it would imply strong ties between early Japan and the Asian mainland, and would reaffirm the old legend that Kyushu was indeed the birthplace of Japan.

CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP BASED ON CULTURAL EXCHANGE



My sixth visit to Japan this summer is a happy prospect, especially because I will be with the London Symphony Orchestra. Remembering the intense listening of Japanese music lovers at my last concert there in 1988, above all the Mahler 9th in Tokyo and my own Koussevitzky Symphony in Hiroshima, gives me a pleasant anticipation.

This year has another special significance for me: 1990 is the fiftieth year since the founding of Sergey Koussevitzky's school at Tanglewood, where I myself was a student and where I first conducted. As my own salute to my beloved teacher, I am honoured to join in opening the first Pacific Music Festival with Michael Tilson Thomas, the LSO and the young musicians from many countries who will form the Festival Orchestra.

My dear Koussevitzky would be thrilled that the youthful dream he realised in the hills of Massachusetts, has also inspired a "Pacific" music centre in the greenery of Sapporo. Congratulations to the enlightened people of Nomura who enable this new artistic dream to become real.

Leonard Bernstein



It is a great pleasure for me to return to Japan so soon after my exciting 1988 visit, together with the London Symphony Orchestra and their President, Leonard Bernstein — my dear and longtime personal friend.

We both share our devotion to young musicians — players and conductors — and to young audiences.

I can remember how my life changed when I won the Koussevitzky Conducting Award in 1968 and studied at Tanglewood under world-class conductor-teachers.

I am therefore delighted to join Leonard Bernstein and the London Symphony Orchestra here in Japan to be part of its new Pacific Music Festival.

What a wonderful opportunity for all of us!

Michael Tilson Thomas

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INDEPENDENT EDUCATION

Down to business

Britain's independent schools are being persuaded to drop their traditional prejudice against industry in an attempt to overcome the chronic shortage of graduates willing to enter the business world.

A conference in Birmingham at the weekend launched a new initiative to bring industry and the public schools closer together for the benefit of both pupils and the British economy.

More than 150 delegates were urged to form local groups to work with industry to bring commercial understanding into the curriculum and to offer pupils a taste of the world of work.

The gathering was convened by the Schools Industry Liaison Committee (SILC), which was formed three years ago at Bedford in response to what many independent school heads saw as the failure of Industry Year to touch the private sector.

Tim Allerton, headmaster of the lower school at Bedford School, and vice-chairman of SILC, said: "It became plain after Industry Year in 1986 that independent schools were not linked to the world of wealth-creation."

While state schools have forged steadily closer links with industry since the 1970s, their independent counterparts have remained largely insular, turning to the world of commerce only to seek sponsorship for specific school projects.

The idea of allowing business people to influence the curriculum was, in many cases still, anathema to public schools.

Mr Allerton says: "A typical head

Public schools are being challenged to drop an old prejudice, Douglas Broom writes

of classics in a school is likely to be very insular and quite unable to understand why anybody would want to go into industry. It is hard to convince him that industry and commerce are not just places for people who cannot get into university."

The founders of SILC staged a major conference in Bedford in 1987 and invited John Banham, director of the CBI, as guest speaker. Within months, 28 independent schools had signed up for the scheme.

The schools, by forming local groups, were able to set up regular links with local businesses to stage events to promote industrial understanding among pupils and arrange work placements to give teenagers a taste of working life.

Among the events SILC has arranged has been a project sponsored by Unilever in which pupils had to design a margarine factory in Africa.

Meanwhile, Martin Rogers has pioneered a parallel scheme at Malvern College, Hereford & Worcester, where he appointed the first public school "industrial fellow" in 1980.

Mr Rogers, now chief master of King Edward's School, Birmingham, says: "I realized very quickly that the one thing you

needed in order to establish good links with industry was time - the very thing most schools did not have.

"You would find that a teacher was asked by the head to 'do this industry thing'. But they would be teaching 28 periods of history a week and running the junior hockey team so they would not have time to do it properly."

Today, a dozen independent schools have industrial fellows, most of them sponsored by industry. At Malvern, Mr Rogers appointed his first industrial fellow with financial help from a Worcester engineering firm. The Birmingham industrial fellowship is sponsored by Barclays Bank.

Vaughan Ward-Hill is an industrial fellow at Rugby School, Warwickshire, although he prefers the title business liaison officer. Since his appointment three years ago, he has introduced work experience for all fifth-form pupils, a starting innovation at one of the country's leading public schools, although the practice is commonplace in the state sector.

Mr Ward-Hill, a former ICI executive, offers his teenage clients placements in a range of industries, from engineering to computing. He is adamant that the quality of work placement offered must be high.

"Industry has to realize that these young people are going to be the kind of well-qualified graduates they are seeking," he explains. "It is no use boring them to death, then complaining that the well-educated are prejudiced against industry."

"I think many of the firms we deal with realize that this is their



GED

chance to show that industry has a lot to offer."

The effectiveness of the scheme in changing attitudes is already beginning to show. Three years ago, few of the 14-year-olds interviewed at the end of a short course on choosing a career had thought about what they might do. Three years later, 70 per cent have begun to make plans.

"They have an idea in their minds of what they want to do after school," Mr Ward-Hill says. "They are starting to realize that they have to work, to earn their living and to make a contribution to society."

Mr Ward-Hill says there has been no outright opposition from staff and parents to his plans. "Our pupils tend to come from the

Midlands and the North of England and are from "yuppie" backgrounds than perhaps would be the case at some schools in the South."

As if to illustrate the success of Rugby's new-found industrial links, two girls in the sixth form have secured engineering sponsorships to help pay their way through university this autumn.

At Uppingham School, Leicestershire, the headmaster, Nick Bomford, believes pressures on pupils to ignore industry come as much from parents as schoolmasters. "I suspect anti-industrial prejudices exist as much among the parents of our pupils as among school staff," Mr Bomford says.

"Many see the professions as having more cachet."

A threat to the family holiday

More school fee rises are on the way

Hard-pressed parents struggling to keep up with increases in independent school fees face another rise this autumn. Despite a record increase of 11.7 per cent in the year to January, fees are likely to rise on a similar scale in the next academic year, say head teachers and bursars (Douglas Broom writes).

They blame teachers' pay rises, which in the last 12 months have added 9.1 per cent to the pay bill of private schools. Although independent schools are not obliged to follow state-school rates, they ignore them at their peril.

Most independent school teachers are paid more than their state school colleagues, partly to ensure that the private sector can recruit the pick of the bunch.

School fee inflation has been running well ahead of the retail price index for most of the past decade and has outstripped average earnings for the past five years.

The 1990 annual census conducted by the Independent Schools Information Service (ISIS) showed that schools also claimed that the increased fees were being used to fund new buildings and equipment.

In the past 12 months, average spending per pupil on buildings and equipment rose by 44 per cent to £546 a head. The total bill came to £254.6 million, an increase of £79.5 million on the previous year.

While independent schools are not obliged to follow the National Curriculum, most will, and are already investing in new classrooms and equipment to cope with the more practical syllabus.

The necessity for such investment is being questioned. One public school observer said: "It is almost reaching the point of over-funding."

Despite the fee increases, independent schools managed to increase their "market share" to 7.3 per cent.

This has largely been achieved by recruiting "first-time buyers", children where neither parent went to an independent school. Research by ISIS shows that two fifths of children at private schools fit this category.

These are the people on whom the burden of fee increases will fall most heavily. They may be willing to pay more for better staffing and facilities, but the price may become too high.

For the majority, the most likely casualty will be the family holiday or perhaps the new car if the predictions are right, the outlook for 1991 is just as gloomy.

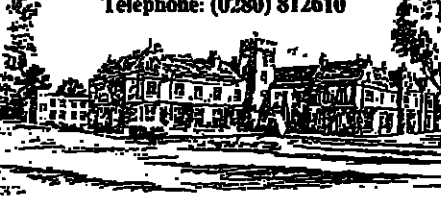
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Continued on next page

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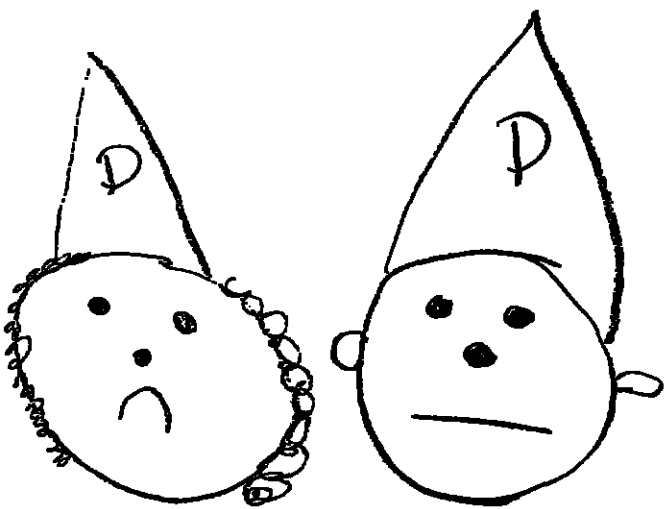
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Quality of Wright, the FA Cup final revelation, poses dilemma for Bobby Robson in his quest for goalscorers

Blacks thrive where Anglo-Saxons left off

ON A colourful afternoon at Wembley, memorable for six goals and a hundred errors and a too tolerant referee from Sussex, the more skilful players predominantly were... black.

As the level of ability coming out of our schools — there no longer being that traditional English pit-head seam of talent — continues to decline in the face of alternative activities, it is the black community which more and more will maintain the international prestige of the original home of football.

Looking in at Saturday's match, Jojo Havellange, the president of FIFA, might at times have sup-



David Miller

posed he was at home in Rio. The intriguing question is whether Bobby Robson should include Ian Wright, the revelation of the FA Cup final, in his squad for Italy. England are short enough of goalscorers, and the two with which Wright so nearly gave Crystal Palace a spectacular victory were as good as anything I have seen anywhere this season.

Whether or not the England manager even considers such a possibility available to him, the fact is that players like Wright and Salako, Ince (who became a decisive figure as Palace's legs suddenly began to fold in the

second half of extra time) and Wallace, give the domestic game a quality that would otherwise be missing: and the standard is doubtful enough as it is.

Saturday's splendidly entertaining match illustrated to the watching billions around the world that the old country still has an almost unmatched hunger and mood for the game but that it is short on the former Anglo-Saxon techniques of Charlton and Peters, never mind of Matthews, Carter, Mannion and Finney.

For much of the first hour, while these two average teams were still physically strong and aggressively challenging — under the referee's

often apparently blind eye — the ball was too often 30 feet in the air and upended opponents flat on the floor.

Palace's 1-3-5-1 formation, gaining an extra forward only when Wright belatedly replaced Barber with 20 minutes to go so dramatically to save and nearly win the match, reduced Manchester United's multi-million-pound assembly to a pile of random unrelated parts.

It was only when fatigue started to undermine Palace's man-for-man marking, Shaw and Pardew on Webb and Robson having been especially effective, that Palace's control of long

phases of the match began to disappear. I see no reason why Palace should doubt their ability to be equally effective in the replay and United equally worried. Palace's performance was not a one-day wonder but confirmation of their ordinary, competent organization under Steve Coppell, a characteristic so often absent this season in United: including, at times, Saturday.

Alex Ferguson's anxiety will be no less, I fancy, on Thursday night than it was when he saw his team twice behind and rescued by the sure foot of Hughes.

If Bobby Robson was wanting to know whether Webb is ready for

Italy, the answer is unresolved; or, if anything, negative. The touch and the eye were there, making the replay-earning goal, but his movement throughout was pedestrian and he would be left groping at international level.

We should, however, be grateful for this vibrant afternoon in a national showpiece, and at the very least hope that it put 10 members of the International Olympic Committee in a good mood when they went yesterday to Manchester to consider whether Britain is capable of staging with style, efficiency and safety the biggest show on earth.

Method matches ragged inspiration

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

Manchester United..... 3
Crystal Palace..... 3

A REVEALING cameo was painted at 4.45pm at Wembley on Saturday. Featuring the respective managers, Alex Ferguson and Steve Coppell, it illustrated graphically their own contrasting attitudes and those of their sides, who ultimately matched each other in a fluctuating FA Cup final of high drama and low quality.

As normal time came to an end, Ferguson strolled amid his exhausted Manchester United players and offered the odd word here and there. Although he was as animated as a jumping bean when on the bench, there was now no apparent urgency in his mission, no visible sign of instruction or advice.

Coppell strode on, gathered his tired Crystal Palace pupils around him and spoke to them as though he was a schoolmaster conducting a refresher course. Having scribbled copiously in a notebook throughout the first half, he could be seen gesticulating as though he was drawing patterns on an imaginary blackboard.

As throughout the season, Ferguson was prepared to allow his more talented representatives to extemporize. Instead of following a recognizable script, United merely prompted each other as they went along. When it works, as it did particularly before the interval, the product is naturally beautiful. When it does not, as in the opening half hour, it resembles an untidy mess.

Coppell cannot afford such luxurious liberties. To mount a realistic challenge, his comparatively limited side had to be organized along more disciplined and regimented lines. Each member of his cast had not only to know his part but also to play it, as against Liverpool in the semi-final.

Palace were assigned specific duties in midfield. Shaw was ordered to shadow Webb, Pardew to partner Robson, Barber to inhibit Ince and Salako to stay with McClair. The quartet adhered rigidly to their tasks and not until concentration was frayed by fatigue were Coppell's rules inadvertently relaxed.

Take set pieces as another example. United evidently had no predetermined plans for throw-ins and especially corners (Wallace generally took them at the start, Webb towards the end). It was as though they had never bothered in practice to perfect an art which can be so decisive.

Palace went through a deliberate free-kick routine. Gray, usually, feigned indecision on each occasion before striking quickly and unexpectedly. United, having been caught off guard the first time, were undone by the third, which Hughes put United ahead



Thrills and spills: Barber (left) and Philan engage in balletic acrobatics in an otherwise unskilled but exciting FA Cup final on Saturday

with a typically spectacular drive after the hour, then provoked Thorn to clear off the line and, after Robson had headed against a post, indulged in an outrageous over-head kick. Eventually, released delightfully by Wallace, he equalized with only seven minutes to go.

But for his feats, Wright would have claimed a prominent place in the annals of "the venue of legends", as Wembley is officially now known. His opening contribution would have been remarkable even if he had not fractured a leg six weeks ago. Drifting away from Philan, he accelerated inside Pallister and threaded the ball precisely underneath Leighton for his first goal this year. A couple of minutes after Coppell's lecture was over, he added another in extra time with a flourish from Salako's floated cross and was curled in by Barber in the

nineteenth minute. O'Reilly nodded home with a deflection off Pallister.

Leighton was at fault then and arguably later, when Wright made a belated and extraordinary impact. Although Martyn could scarcely be blamed, Palace contributed to the overall theme of defensive deficiencies before the interval. They left two opponents free to convert McClair's cross. Robson rather than Hughes did so, off the body of Pemberton.

United were then at their most fluent and McClair in particular should have emphasized their momentary superiority. The rest of the final belonged principally to two figures of inspiration, Hughes, treated leniently by O'Reilly, and Wright, running explosively on recently healed legs, in turn lifted their colleagues towards potential glory.

TEAMS AND FINAL FACTS

MANCHESTER UNITED: J. Leighton; P. Ince, C. Martin (sub: C. Blackmore), S. Bruce, M. Philan, G. Pallister (sub: M. Robson), B. Robson, N. Webb, B. McClair, M. Hughes, D. Wallace.
CRYSTAL PALACE: N. Martyn; J. Pemberton, R. Shaw, A. Gray (sub: D. Maddison), G. O'Reilly, A. Thorn, P. Barber (sub: I. Wright), G. Thomas, M. Bright, J. Salako, A. Pardew.

● The FA Cup semi-finals and final have already produced 22 goals scored by 18 different players. Each is a record.
● Ian Wright of Crystal Palace was only the third substitute to have scored twice in an FA Cup final. The previous occasions were last season when both Ian Rush, of Liverpool, and Stuart McGill, of Everton, did so.
● Facing a six-figure loss if Manchester United won the FA Cup, bookmakers William Hill have shortened their odds from 4-7 to 8-15 to win the Cup. Palace were similarly wide with Aberdeen, 10-1 to 8-1. His odds for 50 minutes play on Thursday are 11-10 United, 2-1 the draw, 12-5 Palace.
● The Wembley attendance of 90,000 produced record receipts of £2.2 million.
● A total of 90,000 drinks, 53,000 pies and pizzas, 15,000 tons of crisps, 35,000 full meals in hospital suites, 45,000 to-go meals and 100,000 programmes were sold on the day.

Aberdeen survive firing squad

By Roddy Forsyth

Aberdeen..... 0
Celtic..... 0

(act: Aberdeen won 9-8 on penalties)

IF ONE is permitted to borrow a notion and a phrase from James Joyce, it seems that we may be obliged to spend more time considering the final end than the nature of its advent, certainly if the events at Hampden Park on Saturday are any guide.

A football match of two hours' duration was followed by an exchange of penalty kicks that prolonged the proceedings painfully for a further 17 minutes, during which time 20 players made their way to the goal area in front of the west terracing and attempted to beat one or other of the respective goalkeepers, Snedders, of Aberdeen, and Bonner, of Celtic.

If the contest had endured for a further two or three minutes we would have been obliged to watch the two goalkeepers go at it against each other as well. The debate about the worth of a penalty kick decision in the Scottish Cup final was well in hand before the weekend and, as can be discerned elsewhere in these pages, continues to excite strong feeling, but its most immediate effect on Saturday was to distort one's perspective on the final as a whole, obscuring the rhythms and patterns which had preceded the elongated climax.

It can at least be said of the 105th Scottish Cup final that the result was ultimately appropriate to the fortunes of the contestants this season. Aberdeen, who ended their league challenge as runners-up to Rangers, have taken the two domestic trophies by way of a surprisingly decent performance. Celtic, in one of their poorest seasons on record, were dignified in defeat at Hampden and there is some substance to the assertion of Billy McNeill, their manager, that they might have edged home with a victory.

Nevertheless, Celtic were attempting to win the Scottish Cup for the third time in succession, a feat they have never previously achieved and, had they succeeded, it would have been a triumph of scavengers. Celtic teams which were greatly more gifted than the present side could not win the trophy three times in a row. The feat would be better accomplished by a congregation of talents whose skills and commitment would not be rendered anemic by a comparison with the likes of Dalglish, Hay, McGinn, Murdoch or Lennon, to name a random handful.

Acknowledging the comparative poverty of resources at Parkhead, McNeill and his assistant, the thoughtful Tommy McLean, had decided on a battle of attrition but in the absence of the injured Chris Morris, they employed a re-drafted defensive core consisting of Elliott, Whyte and

Wdowczyk.

Aberdeen's most potent attacker, the Dutchman, Gribaux, was covered by Elliott, sometimes gawky but mostly effective. The midfield five included Rogan, whose later misfortune in the penalty decider was not warranted by a surprisingly decent performance. Otherwise, and the subtle Stark, winner of two cup medals apiece with Celtic and Aberdeen but playing from the beginning at a Hampden final for the first time, having been inactive because of injury for almost a year.

Aberdeen, by contrast, chose to field their settled combination of recent weeks which meant that the increasingly accomplished Irvine was maintained in the central defensive position formerly occupied by Willie Miller. As expected, Bert was the architect of most of Aberdeen's aggression and was at the heart of the most incisive move of the match, which arrived as early as the sixth minute when Mason gathered possession in central midfield and set his midfield colleague free on the Celtic left.

Bert ran deep for the byline to strike a cutting cross which Bonner addressed but lost as he and Elliott collided. The ball fell to Nicholas, who was obliged to swivel before shooting. A manoeuvre which permitted Elliott the fractional deflection which saved a goal. It was the nearest to a goal from open play which we were to see, although

for an hour the match was agreeable enough entertainment.

As the stalemate developed, however, the focus wandered to peripheral matters, to Nicholas, playing his last match for Aberdeen, the club which rescued him from despond at Highbury. To McClay and Bert, opponents at club level, but allies in Scotland's forthcoming Italian campaign. To an assortment of Celtic players, two thirds of whom are likely to be employed elsewhere a couple of seasons hence, if the team's fortunes are to be revived.

And then with sudden clarity, to the penalty kicks. Wdowczyk missed with the first but Grant was similarly wide with Aberdeen's fourth attempt. The ritual moved on into the sudden death phase until Snedders touched Rogan's effort around his left hand post and Irvine's subsequent conversion for Aberdeen carried the cup north. Before the penalty decider both sets of players shook hands with each other, in the manner of condemned men greeting the firing squad.

At that stage we did not know who were to be the victims. Seventeen minutes later Celtic went to the wall, against which they have had their backs for most of the season.

Marseilles retain their title

By Peter Ball

Bray Wanderers..... 3
St Francis..... 0

(act: Marseilles won 2-0 on penalties)

BERNARD Tapie set off a fireworks display at the Stade Velodrome on Saturday night as his club, Marseilles, captured the French League title for the second year running.

His expensively-assembled team did not produce a display to match, though, beating modest Caen 1-0 thanks to a 33rd-minute goal from midfielder player, Vercruysse, from a cross by Papin. It was a muted performance, but it was enough to give Marseilles the title they deserved as Bordeaux lost all hope with a 1-0 defeat in Nice.

With only one match to go, Marseilles are four points clear. It is their sixth championship, and gives them the chance of a second successive double. They are favourites to win the French Cup, in which they face struggling Racing Paris in the semi-finals in two weeks' time.

Bray crush dream of bold St Francis

By Peter Ball

Bray Wanderers..... 3
St Francis..... 0

(act: Bray won 3-0 on penalties)

ST FRANCIS'S dream is over. The non-League club yesterday went down to the League of Ireland's representatives, Bray Wanderers, in the FAI Cup final at Lansdowne Road to put an end to one of football's most romantic stories in recent years.

Reality asserted itself in cruel fashion as John Ryan scored three times, two from the penalty spot, and the senior team won by a bigger margin than the game warranted. But the former schoolboy club from the streets of Dublin can look back on a glorious adventure and on their significant part in turning the final into a great occasion.

Last year, with two premier division clubs including Derry City, the best team in the League, the final had attracted less than 20,000. Yesterday 29,000, the biggest crowd for 30 years, converged on Lansdowne Road to see if the impossible could happen, catching the administrators totally unprepared in the process.

The kick-off had to be put back 18 minutes to allow the crowds to get in, and the

Spurs owe a debt to Walker

By Denis Signy

Tottenham Hotspur..... 1
Middlesbrough..... 1

(act: Tottenham won 3-2 on aggregate)

ALTHOUGH Tottenham successfully held on to win the FA Youth Cup for the first time in 16 years, they owed a debt of gratitude to Walker.

The highly-rated young goalkeeper, a graduate from the FA School of Excellence at Lilleshall, made several important saves to deny Middlesbrough.

A minute before Tottenham scored, Roxy provided a chance for Fletcher that Walker held. Then, just after half-time, a back-pass by Tuttle provided Arnold with the opportunity to force an excellent save.

By then Tottenham had increased their advantage through a goal after 37 minutes by Morah, another graduate of Lilleshall.

Middlesbrough owe a debt to Walker

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One step

Thomson Jones for profitable trip

By Mandarin

SOUTHERN trainers should have a profitable meeting at Hamilton Park today where I expect them to capture all six races on the Scottish course.

Tim Thomson Jones, in his second season training from the Croft stables in Lambourn, can land a double with Blue Rhythm and Hear A Nightingale.

Last season, Thomson Jones' dexterity was fully tested when he managed to win two races with the single-legged Blue Rhythm from her three outings.

However, despite her problems the five-year-old clearly has plenty of ability. This she showed when winning a 0-100 handicap at Salisbury by a neck from Gorytus Star. On that occasion there were some good performers down the field.

Today, I expect her to have the most to fear from Croft's Clive from the O'Neill's information. Last time out the gelding put up a promising show when runner-up to the useful Densten at Haydock Park.

Hear A Nightingale has already shown her liking for Hamilton when successful in the Whitcomb Nursery in November after getting the better of Mr Optimistic. On that occasion Misty Eyes, one of her main rivals today, was a well-beaten third.

Hand In Glove does not appear to be harshly treated by the handicapper in the Scottish Rife Handicap. Last season, the William Haggas-trained gelding showed plenty of ability in better company. If he produces the form that enabled him to finish second to Derab at Pontefract, he will



Tim Thomson Jones: set for double at Hamilton

take all the beating. Michael Jarvis's decision to drop Gift Premium in class for the Lord Lyndoch Claiming Stakes looks significant. On

his only outing, the colt ran a promising race when needing the run to finish seventh of 16 to Katalina at Nottingham in good maiden contest.

The record-breaking Martin Pipe looks to have the answer to the Serpentine Selling Handicap with Miss Chalk at Windsor tonight. The Dominion filly will be having her first outing on the Flat for Pipe, but has already been successful on two occasions over hurdles as the Serpentine Handicap.

Rod Millman, the former National Hunt jockey, and assistant to Gerald Cottrell, can gain his third winner since taking out a licence this season with Charcoal Burner in the Whitehall Handicap. Charcoal Burner, who was trained by Cottrell last season, gave evidence that he was coming to hand when fifth behind Further Flight at Bath. For the nap of the day, I side

with Al Damour in the Marina Developments Handicap. Last season, the Luca Cusani-trained colt showed considerable promise by finishing fifth, beaten 1½ lengths, to Belmez at Newmarket.

This season, I was rather disappointed with his performance at Newcastle where he again finished fifth to Local Derby. But he may have failed to show his true colour as the stable had been under a cloud at that time due to an outbreak of coughing.

At Wolverhampton, Walter Swinburn and Michael Stoute can land the Rushton Maiden Fillies Stakes with Tamsie. On her only outing at Newmarket, she was the lesser finalist of the two Stoute runners, but nevertheless showed plenty of ability to finish eighth behind Model Village.

Hawksmoor rallies gamely to earn Times final place

Point-to-point
By Brian Beel

HAWKSMOOR, a seven-year-old gelding leased by National Hunt trainer John Edwards to Brian Beel, won the last of the Times Championship point-to-point on Saturday.

After finishing second in a novice chase at Perth last season, Hawksmoor was taken out of training and went hunting with a view to running him into point-to-points.

Saturday was his third outing. He had previously run fourth in a restricted race at the Ludlow before falling in a hunter chase at Farnham.

Under Sophie Edwards, the trainer's daughter, he looked held by the long-term leader Tyberingham, ridden by Michael Hammond, but ran on gamely to beat the last two fences to win by a length.

Earlier at the meeting, my Saturday selection for the Times

THE TIMES

Point-to-point Championship

qualifier, Sandstone Arch, won the adjacent race for Charles Barker, connections believing this to be the easier of his two engagements.

Mourne Warrior reinforced his position as leader in the north west and for the Belfast PPOA Young Horse award with win No 7 in the ladies. Headed by Candy Thomas on Ebony Hill three out, he put in another resolute performance for Lucy Crow, taking the lead again on the run-in to win by 1½ lengths.

Philip Schofield and Mike

Felton both rode one winner on Saturday but Felton had, additionally, two walk-overs at the Tedworth so is credited with a seasonal score of 22 against Schofield's 20.

Felton's win on Polar Glen in the four-mile open race was made easier by the early departure of the favourite, Senator Of Rome, who has now unused his rider on four occasions in five outings this season, twice with his owner Hilary M. Call and once as a walk-over on Saturday, when ridden by his trainer, Seamus Mullin.

In the ladies event here Jennifer Oliver was going as well on Sheerwater as the Rosemary Victoria, who has now unused her rider on three occasions in five outings this season, twice with her owner Hilary M. Call and once as a walk-over on Saturday, when ridden by his trainer, Seamus Mullin.

Results from nine meetings

WOLVERHAMPTON

By Mandarin

2.30 Dixton.
3.00 Kerry Roy.
3.30 Dixton and Orange.
4.00 Thakir.
4.30 Tamsie.
5.00 Decit.
5.30 Secret Waters.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

2.30 Desert Splendour.
3.00 Cosmic Dancer.
3.30 Niklas Angel.
4.00 Thakir.
4.30 INVITATION WALTZ (nap).
5.00 Burtonwood Harp.
5.30 Rock Face.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.30 PERSIAN DYNASTY.

Going: good to firm

2.30 EBF PENRIDGE MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O colts & geldings; £2,280; 5f) (9 runners)

1 (6) 3 CARFIELD LAD 16 (M. J. Carr) G. Pritchard-Gordon 9-0 W Wood
2 (1) 1 DESERT SPLENDOR (M. Pritchard) G. Pritchard-Gordon 9-0 W Wood
3 (2) 1 DIXTON (K. Adams) R. Chertton 9-0 P. Eddery
4 (10) 1 HIGHLAND MAGIC 30 (P. P. Goddard) M. Pritchard-Gordon 9-0 W Wood
5 (8) 1 STONEHILL ASH 20 (M. Pritchard) G. Pritchard-Gordon 9-0 W Wood
6 (9) 1 WHIPPERS DELIGHT (M. J. Carr) G. Pritchard-Gordon 9-0 W Wood

BETTING: 7-4 Dixton, 5-2 Carfield Lad, 5-1 Whippers Delight, 13-2 Stonehill Ash, 10-1 Desert Splendour, Highland Magic.

FORM FOCUS: CARFIELD LAD should improve from the experience when third beaten 3½ by Karremar (see 58) at Leicester. HIGHLAND MAGIC has not come to himself when last time out at Leicester. DESERT SPLENDOR was not disgraced on debut when he finished 15th by the useful Timesless Times (see 70) at Ripon.

3.00 GRAND UNION SELLING HANDICAP (£2,675; 1m 4f 100yds) (16 runners)

1 (6) 244822 NIPOTINA 3 (M. J. Carr) R. Chertton 9-0 G. Vind 6-1
2 (1) 244822 NIPOTINA 3 (M. J. Carr) R. Chertton 9-0 G. Vind 6-1
3 (1) 244822 NIPOTINA 3 (M. J. Carr) R. Chertton 9-0 G. Vind 6-1
4 (1) 244822 NIPOTINA 3 (M. J. Carr) R. Chertton 9-0 G. Vind 6-1
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BETTING: 7-4 Dixton, 5-2 Carfield Lad, 5-1 Whippers Delight, 13-2 Stonehill Ash, 10-1 Desert Splendour, Highland Magic.

FORM FOCUS: NIPOTINA, yet to win, is selling company after finishing 4th at Leicester when she was 11th by the useful Timesless Times (see 70) at Ripon.

3.30 Telford Handicap (£2,605; 1m 10f) (21 runners)

1 (18) 205-061 URRAY ON GOLD 16 (M. J. Carr) G. Pritchard-Gordon 9-0 W Wood
2 (1) 205-061 URRAY ON GOLD 16 (M. J. Carr) G. Pritchard-Gordon 9-0 W Wood
3 (1) 205-061 URRAY ON GOLD 16 (M. J. Carr) G. Pritchard-Gordon 9-0 W Wood
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BETTING: 7-4 Dixton, 5-2 Carfield Lad, 5-1 Whippers Delight, 13-2 Stonehill Ash, 10-1 Desert Splendour, Highland Magic.

FORM FOCUS: URRAY ON GOLD, yet to win, is selling company after finishing 4th at Leicester when she was 11th by the useful Timesless Times (see 70) at Ripon.

4.00 Thakir Handicap (£2,605; 1m 10f) (21 runners)

1 (18) 205-061 URRAY ON GOLD 16 (M. J. Carr) G. Pritchard-Gordon 9-0 W Wood
2 (1) 205-061 URRAY ON GOLD 16 (M. J. Carr) G. Pritchard-Gordon 9-0 W Wood
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BETTING: 7-4 Dixton, 5-2 Carfield Lad, 5-1 Whippers Delight, 13-2 Stonehill Ash, 10-1 Desert Splendour, Highland Magic.

FORM FOCUS: URRAY ON GOLD, yet to win, is selling company after finishing 4th at Leicester when she was 11th by the useful Timesless Times (see 70) at Ripon.

4.30 Thakir Handicap (£2,605; 1m 10f) (21 runners)

1 (18) 205-061 URRAY ON GOLD 16 (M. J. Carr) G. Pritchard-Gordon 9-0 W Wood
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6 (1) 205-061 URRAY ON GOLD 16 (M. J. Carr) G. Pritchard-Gordon 9-0 W Wood

BETTING: 7-4 Dixton, 5-2 Carfield Lad, 5-1 Whippers Delight, 13-2 Stonehill Ash, 10-1 Desert Splendour, Highland Magic.

FORM FOCUS: URRAY ON GOLD, yet to win, is selling company after finishing 4th at Leicester when she was 11th by the useful Timesless Times (see 70) at Ripon.

5.00 Thakir Handicap (£2,605; 1m 10f) (21 runners)

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2 (1) 205-061 URRAY ON GOLD 16 (M. J. Carr) G. Pritchard-Gordon 9-0 W Wood
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4.0 PENN FIELDS GUARANTEED SWEEPSTAKES (3-Y-O; £2,060; 1m 1f) (3 runners)

1 (2) 4-01 THAKIR 7 (M. J. Carr) G. Pritchard-Gordon 9-0 W Wood
2 (1) 4-01 THAKIR 7 (M. J. Carr) G. Pritchard-Gordon 9-0 W Wood
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BETTING: 7-4 Dixton, 5-2 Carfield Lad, 5-1 Whippers Delight, 13-2 Stonehill Ash, 10-1 Desert Splendour, Highland Magic.

FORM FOCUS: THAKIR was very impressive when last time out at Leicester. HIGHLAND MAGIC has not come to himself when last time out at Leicester.

4.30 RUSHTON MAIDEN FILLES STAKES (3-Y-O; £2,677; 7f) (11 runners)

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A forgotten bowler matches a cricketing Titan blow for blow as champions threaten to turn the tables on the New Zealanders

Newport refuses to bow to Hadlee

By Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent

NEW ROAD: Worcestershire, with three second-innings wickets in hand, lead the New Zealanders by 218 runs

RICHARD Hadlee has made a serious attempt to dominate this match, but Phil Newport refuses to allow it. It is still questionable which of them will emerge on top after a day in which Worcestershire flurried with the idea of a two-day defeat, before rallying with all the resourcefulness of the champions they are.

On Saturday, Hadlee took five for 27 and Newport countered with five for 13. Eighteen wickets fell for fewer than 300 runs, but this was not an especially evil pitch. Hadlee proved that yesterday by scoring 90, a virtuoso effort in an innings which contained only another 77 runs from the bat.

Worcestershire trailed by 30 and, without the injured Hick, soon lost half their side for 59. Enter Newport once more.

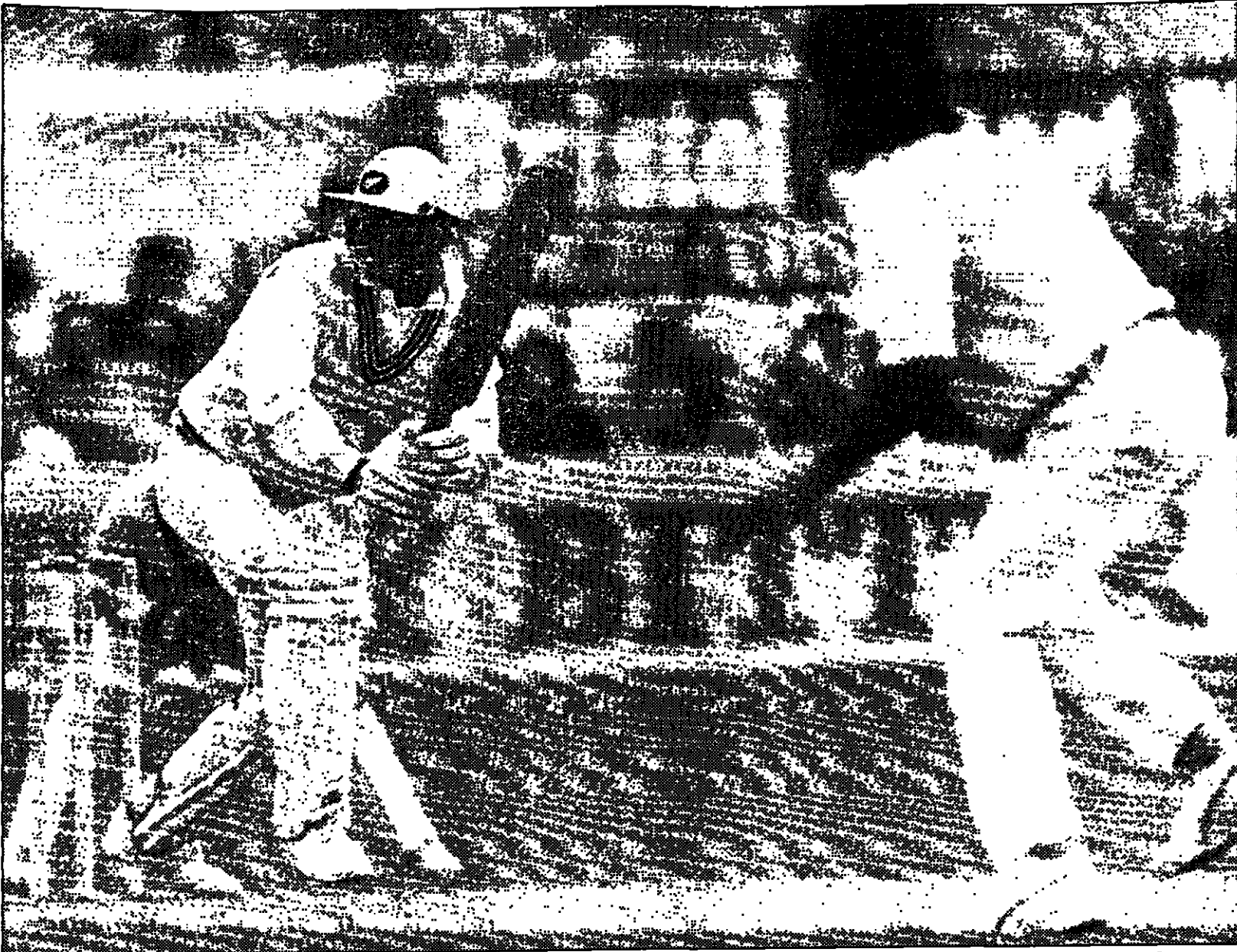
Batting with a studied elegance which betrayed his origins as an opener, Newport cover drove exquisitely in making a career best 98. He shared a stand of 179 in three hours with Illingworth, a relative veteran of three centuries, before both were out on the same score to the huge relief of a touring team which had begun to wonder where its next wicket would come from. They must now bat well today to win this opening match in the Tedy Bitter Challenge series.

Newport's performance was impeccably timed. Mickey Stewart, the England team manager, has been here all weekend, and he now knows that neither Fraser nor Capel will be fit for next week's one-day internationals. Fraser's intercostal problem is persisting, and Capel will miss a month's cricket with a cracked kneecap.

Two vacant bowling places, then, for Stewart and his co-selectors to resolve when they meet on Thursday. Newport, whose batting will be considered a bonus, must be pencilled in, although he will hardly relish the venue of the opening match—Headingley, where his Test career was temporarily fled away last June, his match figures of two for 175 not doing full justice to his nightmarish.

Newport is one bowler who ought not to be inconvenienced by the reforms in balls and pitches. Essentially, he is an exponent of swing, not seam, and a consensus is that the 1990 ball swings more readily than last year's. His Achilles' heel injury is evidently behind him, but it is only in the conducive cloud cover of this weekend that he has again looked a match-winner.

He added one more wicket yesterday, but it was not that of Hadlee. New Zealand's proud Titan was, in fact,



A living legend: Hadlee plunders more runs for New Zealand, at the expense of Radford, as the touring party takes on the champions yesterday

responsible for ruining his rival's figures as he scored 67 of the 88 runs added for the last two wickets, turning a potentially sick deficit into a healthy lead.

He reckons that his own feat of taking five wickets in an innings 100 times is the equivalent of scoring 100 centuries. Now, he homed in on the 15th hundred of his neglected batting career, but he was still 10 short when he groped at a good ball from McEwan and nicked it to Bevins.

Bent, opening instead of Curtis, another Worcester casualty, took nine from Morrison's first over, but was out to Hadlee's third ball, fatally indeterminate in his footwork. Morrison, genuinely fast on a pitch with its share of bounce, unsettled Weston before removing him. Worcester were still behind, and effectively three down.

Millow, with his ungainly looks, his unruly hair and a high-kicking, high-energy delivery which suggests he might fall flat on his face, is nevertheless a bowler of some promise, and he took the crucial wicket of Neale. D'Oliveira perished trying to hit Hadlee over the top, or in deciding against the idea when it was too late, and the

unlikely fifth wicket pairing was under way on its salvage operation.

Worcestershire First Innings

P Bart D Morrison 29
M J Westcott c Rutherford b Hadlee 3
D B D'Oliveira c Rutherford b Hadlee 4
R K Rutherford c Rutherford b Hadlee 9
P A Neale b Millow 40
S G Davies not out 40
Total (10 wickets, 55 overs) 171

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11, 2-46, 3-90, 4-102, 5-102, 6-108, 7-133, 8-170, 9-171.
BOWLING: Hadlee 15-27-5, Morrison 20-25-4, Neale 16-25-2, Rutherford 8-25-0, Davies 10-11-0, Millow 2-1-0-0.

Worcestershire Second Innings
P Bart D Morrison 9
M J Westcott c Rutherford b Hadlee 3
D B D'Oliveira c Rutherford b Hadlee 4
R K Rutherford c Rutherford b Hadlee 9
P A Neale b Millow 40
S G Davies not out 40
Total (10 wickets, 55 overs) 171

Zimbabwe's run target eludes them in opener

By Richard Streeton

HOVE (Zimbabwe won toss). Sussex beat Zimbabwe by 56 runs

ZIMBABWE, who in June defend the ICC trophy in The Netherlands, were outplayed by a Sussex side containing only two capped players yesterday when they began a short tour of England. A target of 234 in the 55-over match proved too much for the touring team, who arrived in London on Thursday. Philip Threlfall, the promising Sussex fast bowler, began the collapse in three successive overs when he forced Patterson to strike with a bruised thumb and dismissed Kevin Arnold and Robertson. Good returns by Parker and Salisbury ran out Pyroft and Bryant and the front rank batting had gone. Salisbury, bowling leg-breaks, went on to dismiss Shah and Patterson, in the same over when he returned, and he finished with four wickets for 25.

The Zimbabweans have another one-day game with Essex at Chelmsford today and then play three-day matches against Yorkshire, Gloucestershire and Lancashire before leaving for The Netherlands. They have trained hard for this tour and not too much notice

should be taken of this early reversal.

Several of the side appeared fitter than they did in their own country against England A in February and March. Brandes, in particular, looked yards faster than he did on the lifeless pitches in Harare and Bulawayo.

There is one change in the originally chosen Zimbabwean party. Darrell Goodwin, a hard hitting batsman, could not get time off work and has been replaced by Arnold. Threlfall, like Brandes, obtained lift on an ideal pitch of the sort that has brought Peter Eaton, the Hove groundsman, so much credit over the years. It was the third time in six days that Sussex had played on a pitch, which was also used in the Benson and Hedges Cup-ties with Somerset and Middlesex on Saturday and the previous Tuesday.

The Sussex innings owed much to a second wicket stand between Speight and Hall for the third wicket after Jarvis, the left-arm seam bowler, took two early wickets. Hall, a second senior team player, helped add 122 in 26 overs before he was caught behind. Speight, of whom so

much is expected, hit 12 fours in an attractive display of driving.

Traicos, the wily off-spinner, who is 43 on Thursday, eventually had Speight caught.

Sussex Innings
N J Latham b Jarvis 1
J W Hall c Bryant b Brandes 10
C Greenfield b Jarvis 10
M P Speight c Bryant b Traicos 79
C Remy not out 10
P W O'Farrell b S Shah 10
P W O'Farrell b S Shah 10
P W O'Farrell b S Shah 10
P W O'Farrell b S Shah 10
P W O'Farrell b S Shah 10
Total (10 wickets, 55 overs) 233

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-22, 2-38, 3-145, 4-145, 5-177, 6-182, 7-183, 8-202, 9-202, 10-202, 11-202, 12-202, 13-202, 14-202, 15-202, 16-202, 17-202, 18-202, 19-202, 20-202, 21-202, 22-202, 23-202, 24-202, 25-202, 26-202, 27-202, 28-202, 29-202, 30-202, 31-202, 32-202, 33-202, 34-202, 35-202, 36-202, 37-202, 38-202, 39-202, 40-202, 41-202, 42-202, 43-202, 44-202, 45-202, 46-202, 47-202, 48-202, 49-202, 50-202, 51-202, 52-202, 53-202, 54-202, 55-202, 56-202, 57-202, 58-202, 59-202, 60-202, 61-202, 62-202, 63-202, 64-202, 65-202, 66-202, 67-202, 68-202, 69-202, 70-202, 71-202, 72-202, 73-202, 74-202, 75-202, 76-202, 77-202, 78-202, 79-202, 80-202, 81-202, 82-202, 83-202, 84-202, 85-202, 86-202, 87-202, 88-202, 89-202, 90-202, 91-202, 92-202, 93-202, 94-202, 95-202, 96-202, 97-202, 98-202, 99-202, 100-202, 101-202, 102-202, 103-202, 104-202, 105-202, 106-202, 107-202, 108-202, 109-202, 110-202, 111-202, 112-202, 113-202, 114-202, 115-202, 116-202, 117-202, 118-202, 119-202, 120-202, 121-202, 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All-round effort by Yorkshire ends Derby's run

By Martin Searby

HEADINGLEY: (Yorkshire won toss). Yorkshire beat Derbyshire by 6 wickets

Moynihan alerts FIFA to need for action

By David Miller

Colin Moynihan, who has been pilloried by so many, inside and outside football, for his efforts to combat hooliganism, emerged at the weekend as a leader who may help direct the game, internationally, towards saving itself from its growing malaise of violence: an ailment that is not exclusively English.

At separate meetings with Lennart Johansson and João Havelange, the respective presidents of UEFA and FIFA, the British Minister for Sport emphasized the need for the international football authorities to turn their attention to controlling not just the exported English criminal spectator but those of every other nation with a propen-

sity for violence. While on the one hand, Moynihan is seen as the figurehead who repeatedly stands in the way of a return of English clubs to European competition — a spoiler of other people's selfish fun — in reality he is attempting to establish different layers of crowd control that will in fact protect clubs and professional players, and possibly national teams, from being banned.

Moynihan persuaded Johansson that UEFA's executive committee should consider banning the travelling of fans to all away matches in European competition, as well as to postpone until the end of the World Cup any decision on English clubs' readmission next season.

At a dinner for 10 International Olympic Committee members

visiting the Cup Final and then Manchester, Moynihan persuaded Havelange of the ultimate need for the severest penalties — the suspension of the England team from the competition next month — in the event, say, of fatalities — to counteract the threat of legal action by civic authorities against football authorities. Havelange agreed that FIFA's attitude must be the same towards all nations provoking violent attitudes.

"The point being made is that FIFA should be under no illusion about the need for severe action against any country if circumstances demand it," Moynihan said yesterday. "The last thing wanted is the suspension of clubs or national teams from international tournaments. But we have to balance the importance of

football festivals and law and order. The latter must take precedence, just as at Bournemouth."

Moynihan stressed that control of crowds in European competitions next season and in Italy this summer are different; the terms of ticket distribution by FIFA were already established several years ago, and nothing could be done that would preempt those conditions other than massive police surveillance beforehand and control at matches.

"I think there is less likelihood of trouble now, with the provisions we have been able to make in collaboration with the Italians," Moynihan said. "But it would be naive to think that England could continue if, say, there were fatalities. FIFA has not in the past been

actively close to governments, but it is becoming aware of the legal significance of action or the lack of it."

There had to be leadership from within football, Moynihan argued, because unless there was both UEFA and FIFA could be caught in a downward spiral of suspending clubs or nations from participation, with an increasing legal risk when reinstating them. That is why he has insisted, for example, on UEFA waiting to see the outcome of events in Italy.

There was the need to remind everyone, Moynihan said, of the coincidence of violence with England's presence at tournaments — a similar situation as exists with Leeds — and that with England's elimination in the European championship first round in West

Germany two years ago, the element of violence largely evaporated.

"What we need is to be proactive rather than reactive," Moynihan said. "The situation is potentially serious not just here but throughout football. We want measures that will control the English spectator abroad, but equally we do not want football spectators from The Netherlands or anywhere else marauding through British cities. International football is under threat unless really tough measures are taken. I want to protect the activities of clubs, and professional players, not see them restricted."

Moynihan believed that the ban on away travel by UEFA could be selectively directed at high-risk

clubs and matches. However, any action regarding Scottish spectators in Italy would be in the hands of Michael Forsythe, the Minister for Sport at the Scottish Office. Scotland's fans have behaved well during the past two tournaments in Mexico and Spain.

● ROME: Italy will deploy 10,000 policemen inside the country's 12 World Cup stadiums to prevent hooligans rioting during the month-long tournament (Reuters reports). Carlo Tognoli, the Tourism Minister, said the Government was also examining a British request for an alcohol ban in Cagliari, Sardinia, where England play Netherlands in a first-round match on June 16.

Wright is not yet assured of his place for replay

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

MANCHESTER United may be without their most expensive defender, and Crystal Palace may start without their most productive forward, in the FA Cup final replay at Wembley on Thursday.

Gary Pallister, bought for £2.3 million, is considered doubtful, and Ian Wright, the scorer of two goals in the 3-3 draw on Saturday, could again be a substitute.

The condition of Pallister, who damaged an ankle and was withdrawn during extra time, could yet influence the tactical decision of Steve Coppell. The Palace manager has intimated that Wright, in spite of his striking contribution, may still not be sufficiently fit to be included in his initial line-up.

Coppell said he had never thought Wright would be fit enough to start on Saturday — although he led people to believe that it was a last-minute decision — and he may feel the same way about the replay.

"That was why Ian was substitute," Coppell said. "Some people said he should have played from the start. But I always feel that if you're not 100 per cent fit and you start with everyone else when they are 100 per cent fit, then you are at a disadvantage."

"It was all part of the plan, not a desperate measure at all, and he responded by scoring a magnificent first goal to put us back in to the game."

Wright who had not previously scored this year, claimed he was ready to play from the kick-off, both on Saturday and Thursday. He said: "It's not my decision. If the boss starts me, that's up to him."

"I wasn't disappointed on Saturday, although obviously I wanted to start. The boss had to make a difficult decision. But remember, he's the man who brought me in to the professional game, and all along he told me what his plan was and that I was going to go on. When the moment came,

he just said, 'Go on and win the game, and all I did was my best.'"

Palace, who were infuriated that their allocation of tickets amounted to only 14,000 out of the total of 78,000 on Saturday, are sure to receive more support on Thursday. Each club is to be offered 20,000 tickets for the replay, and another 6,000 will, if necessary, be made available. Fewer tickets are allocated to regional members of the Football Association.

A queue formed outside Selhurst Park at 9am yesterday, and Ron Noades, the Palace chairman, said that he was "sure we'll sell at least 20,000". His club has had to abandon a scheduled tour of the West Indies, which was to have started on Wednesday and embrace four matches.

United, though, carried out their plan to tour Manchester in a bus yesterday. One member of the squad, Les Sealey, was allowed instead to return to his home in London, but Alex Ferguson, the manager, is concerned that the absence of the reserve goalkeeper, who was borrowed until the season's end, should be only temporary.

Ken Merrett, the United secretary, conceded that the terms of Sealey's loan were not clearly defined. "We are not sure whether he can stay with us and we will do everything in our power to see that his contract is extended," Merrett said. The only other goalkeeper at the club is Mark Bosnich, aged 17, an Australian.

Four times last season Patrese had to be content with second place, and yesterday's success, coming in front of his home crowd, was particularly sweet for him.

Full of emotion he said: "I cannot find the words to describe my delight. I have been wanting to win this race ever since 1983, when I was leading in a Brabham a few laps from the end, then threw it all away by crashing. This time, those last laps were very tense for me because I was full of memories."

The Williams cars had looked strong all weekend, but it was Patrese's partner, Boutsen, who had set the pace from the fourth lap, when Senza, the early leader, had suffered a broken rear wheel which caused his McLaren to

Keeping head above water on a wild weekend

IAN STEWART



Riding the froth: A kayak competitor in the thick of it during the British Open wildwater canoeing championships at Bala, north Wales, over the weekend. Neil Stamps (Royal) and Julie Ashton (Nottingham) took the titles while Steve Wells (Nottingham) dominated the C1 event

Arrests down at Final

POLICE arrested 49 spectators at the FA Cup final at Wembley on Saturday, a match they described as "probably one of the quietest finals for some time" (John Goodbody writes).

With the presidents of both FIFA and UEFA present, there was a need to present a dignified image of English football, particularly after the violence at Bournemouth the previous Saturday.

Intelligence officers from Manchester and London identified well-known troublemakers and prevented confrontation and disorder. None of the arrests was for serious offences.

Commander David Kendrick, who was in charge of the policing operation for the match, said: "Unlike previous years, the stadium was not inundated with forged tickets. The anti-drink initiative proved efficient."

Waddle is back in contention

By Stuart Jones

CHRIS Waddle has come back into contention for a place in the England side in the internationals against Denmark tomorrow night and Uruguay a week later. His presence partially offsets the absence of Bryan Robson and Neil Webb, who are unavailable until Friday because of the FA Cup final replay.

Waddle, who missed the 4-2 win over Czechoslovakia last month, is able to return to his usual role on the right flank since Marseilles have already retained the French title. His release was secured once his club had beaten Caen on Saturday.

Mark Wright is the most serious doubt. His chances of being selected as a reserve central defender for the game against the Danes and for the World Cup squad next week were diminished when he reported with a series of injuries, which included a damaged leg, arm and shoulder.

Bobby Robson's list of mid-field choices could be even further reduced because Steve McMahon has a strained hamstring. Yet the England manager was heartened by Webb's contribution for Manchester United in the FA Cup final on Saturday. "He proved that he has no problems with his stamina," Robson said yesterday.

Webb himself admitted that he was still lacking sharpness. "I have trouble over the first couple of yards when people knock the ball past me," he said.

Robson, who intends to play his strongest side against Uruguay, was reassured that Peter Beardsley, another of his probable team, appears to have fully recovered.

Elated Patrese ends wait

By John Binsden

RICCARDO PATRESE scored a long-overdue victory for the Canon Williams team yesterday after taking his Renault-powered car past Gerhard Berger's Marlboro McLaren-Honda 10 laps from the end of the 61-lap San Marino Grand Prix.

Four times last season Patrese had to be content with second place, and yesterday's success, coming in front of his home crowd, was particularly sweet for him.

Full of emotion he said: "I cannot find the words to describe my delight. I have been wanting to win this race ever since 1983, when I was leading in a Brabham a few laps from the end, then threw it all away by crashing. This time, those last laps were very tense for me because I was full of memories."

The Williams cars had looked strong all weekend, but it was Patrese's partner, Boutsen, who had set the pace from the fourth lap, when Senza, the early leader, had suffered a broken rear wheel which caused his McLaren to

slide off the track and out of the race. But, in his efforts to keep Berger at bay, Boutsen missed a gear and over-revved his engine, which expired on the 18th lap.

From then on it was Berger's turn to control the race from the front, but Mansell, who had chosen the softer of the two types of Goodyear tyres for his Ferrari and consequently had taken it easy during the first few laps in order to keep the tyres cool, began to apply pressure from the half-way mark.

Mansell had already survived a spin, when he was edged off the track by de Cesaris, but he made up lost

time and was ready to challenge Berger by the 36th lap.

After gaining a tow in the McLaren's slipstream into the fast Tamborello curve, Mansell pulled out to the left to pass just as Berger moved over the same way, squeezing him on to the grass and into a high-speed spin from which he was very lucky to emerge unscathed. Furious, he took up the chase again and cut the gap to two seconds, only for his engine to expire on lap 39.

A fighting drive from Nannini was rewarded by a well-earned third place in his Benetton-Ford after a tense tussle with Prost, who had chosen harder tyres than

Mansell and had been obliged to make a 6.7 second mid-race pit stop for softer rubber.

Piquet completed the encouraging performance by the Benetton by recovering from an early tangle with Alesi, which dropped him from sixth to ninth, to fight his way back into fifth place. Alesi survived a spin and a pit stop for fresh Pirelli tyres to claim sixth place, a lap in arrears, although the Tyrrell team suffered a setback when Nakajima crashed the latest chassis on the opening lap.

The race produced the best result so far this season by the Camel Lotus team, whose Lamborghini-powered cars ended in formation after a friendly fight between Warwick and an oil-spattered Donnelly, in seventh and eighth.

Donnelly, who survived a spin at the hairpin on the opening lap, was first smothered with oil from one of the back markers, then later, when he closed on Warwick, oil started to pour from the breather pipe of the leading Lotus.

Finals put focus on penalties

By Roddy Forsyth

THE argument over the aptness of penalty kicks as a means of resolving important football matches surfaced abruptly at the weekend, when the Scottish Cup final at Hampden Park was settled from the spot after Aberdeen and Celtic had drawn, despite extra time, while the FA Cup final will go to a replay on Thursday night.

In the immediate aftermath of the game at Wembley, opinion, at least that conveyed on radio and television, was virtually unanimous in favour of the replay.

At Hampden, meanwhile, the managers of Aberdeen and Celtic were as inseparable on the issue as their teams had been until a total of 20 penalty kicks fell in favour of Aberdeen by a margin of 9-4, three having been missed by unfortunates on each side. Alex Smith, the Aberdeen manager, said: "We have won two cups this season but we would rather have won the match and not the penalties. It was like shooting ducks in a fairground to win the prize."

Billy McNeill, of Celtic, commented: "I said last week that I was unhappy about the change of format; what we saw at the end of the final confirmed my opinion. I would have said the same if it had gone in our favour."

However, penalty kicks have already been prescribed for the Scottish Cup final next year, in the event of a tie, and today, at the annual general meeting of the Scottish FA, the use of such a method seems likely to be extended to the semi-finals of the competition, which are presently permitted to go to a single replay.

The newly-appointed SFA secretary, James Farry, said yesterday: "I am unservingly convinced that every spectator going to Hampden wanted to see the trophy presented. As soon as we get replays, we get arguments over neutral venues, the cost to fans of midweek travelling, the difficulties of distributing tickets."

Significant Moments

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NIGEL MANSELL
ON THE GRAND PRIX

NIGEL MANSELL, Britain's leading grand prix driver and a member of the Marlboro drivers' team, comments on the San Marino Grand Prix. Mansell will be commenting for The Times throughout the season

I spun and completed a full 360 degrees, but fortunately managed to get it together to come back on to the circuit and carry on.

It was a very nasty moment. At that speed, the possible consequences do not bear thinking about.

I think what Gerhard did was unprofessional, and certainly not subtle. FISA is the governing body and has to decide if it needs to take any action. I am just confused by the whole incident.

I was catching him again, and even set the fastest lap time the 38th time round. The victory was still there for the taking. Then, with no warning, my engine blew towards the end of lap 39, and all I could do was roll into the pits to retire. It was a very depressing end to my race.

The whole day was very emotional. I could see the Ferrari supporters waving flags all round the circuit as I closed up on Gerhard. That was a very special feeling. I was on my way to my third win for the team, and my first here in Italy at the Autodromo Enzo e Dino Ferrari. It was the fortieth anniversary of the very first world championship race, and this victory would have made it a very special anniversary celebration for me. All that was taken away from me. I'm upset for the fans as much as for myself.

I had problems even before the race started. I banged my head on a transporter and gashed it quite badly. The

doctor applied a protective spray, but I may need stitches. My head was pounding throughout the race, not that that was going to hinder me.

I was barged onto the dirt just after the start, and Andrea de Cesaris had me up on the kerb when he quite blatantly blocked me. It was a crazy thing to do, but then it's not the first time he's got in the way of another driver. I also had to get by Jean Alesi and Riccardo Patrese, and neither had any intention of making it easy for me. I couldn't envisage, though, what was awaiting me when I came alongside Gerhard.

I was charging again when my engine went.

All weekend we had worked well, and I went into the race genuinely believing we could win. The race confirmed that, but it's little consolation when you have nothing to show for it.

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